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THE DOLLAR NEWSPAPER.

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[Written for the Dollar Newspaper—Philada.]

FALLING LEAVES.

BY C. H. GARBER.

They've gathered in the sheaves
Of the ripe harvest; packed the mow and swung
The barn doors to; with scythe and sickle hung
Under the sheltering eaves.

The widowed matron heaves
A sigh alone; and happy children shout
With glee, at play, nor heed the storm without,
Nor hear the falling leaves.

Like one in hoary years,
Homeless and poor—as many a long life ends—
Who has seen better days, had troops of friends,
The leafless tree appears.

With how gay threads she weaves
Life's web, bright Fancy. Youth is poetry;
But withered age, like the bare winter tree,
Has but its falling leaves.

How much himself deceives
Who looks no higher than the clouds; whose prop
Is earthly hopes alone, which drop
Just like the falling leaves.

Nor wise nor good who grieves
After earth's buried joys, and, trembling, fears
To live or love—wasting reluctant tears
Over life's falling leaves.

When winter snows have gone,
And killing frosts, the new Spring's flooding rain
Will break the ice, and all the trees again
Shall put their glory on.

And there will be a morn,
They call it *resurrection*, when the dead
Shall take Christ's hand, be by *Him upward* led,
And to a new life born.

Oh! let me not mistrust—
Shall the dear eyes that look in love on me,
Under the coffin lid, open and see?
Oh! God, they shall, and must!

Gather the falling leaves
Into the barnyard for the herd, and bring
The house dog in. Hark! how the swallows sing
Under the sheltering eaves.

Norristown, November 27th, 1863.

[Written for the Dollar Newspaper—Philada.]

THE SPIRIT'S HIGH DESTINY.

BY J. H. KENNEDY.

Thoughts free, and eloquent, and bright,
And linked in golden chain;
A mind all music, health, and light,
And worth, without a stain—
Who would not give all wealth on earth,
For their divine, immortal birth?

Ask why the flowers have fragrant breath,
And rosy smiles and hues?
Ask why their perfume lives in death?—
Why sunbeams, showers and dews,
And gentle Spring's ethereal reign
Should warm them into life again?

Called by the silent voice of Time,
As day succeeds to day,
The bright, the beautiful, sublime,
Must pass from earth away—
While all her wilds, and bowers that bloom,
Make music that might wake the tomb!

But goodness dies not with the good,
Nor wisdom with the wise;
All things that fade shall be renewed
Beyond these ruined skies.
These spirits and these forms of ours
Shall wear the infinite stars as flowers!

AN ORIGINAL NOVELETTE.

THE YOUNG SHAKERESS.

[WRITTEN FOR THE DOLLAR NEWSPAPER—PHILA.]

BY URANIA MANDEVILLE.

[CONCLUDED.]

CHAPTER V.

A pious pastor's peaceful flock
Were faithful fed in pastures green,
And drank from Mercy's cleaving rock
The streams of Hope and Joy serene.

There's danger in thy path—beware!
Nor tempt too far the secret foe;
Far better face the cannon's glare
Than treasured hatred's visage know.

Strong and bright are the links which bind the settlers of a thinly-populated district to each other. There is mutual dependence, and under its benign influence are engendered love, hospitality and genuine sympathy. The passions of envy, jealousy and hatred are the spontaneous growth of a more advanced stage of society.

Mr. Mapes had appointed the evening for meeting his class, as being more convenient; their various pursuits occupying their time during the day, and the night to which we particularly allude was dark as Erebus; not one silver star being left to shed lustre on the rider's lonely way, and the tall pines, with their thick branches, closed over the narrow path, such as he was necessarily in to leaving, for many of his people had donbts which no one else could solve, difficulties which no other person could comprehend, and the feeble lambs of the flock needed encouragement, which Brother Mapes was so well qualified to impart. He was a powerful auxiliary to a new settlement in another respect; he had some knowledge of the law, and could thread out its intricacies and untangle its perplexities; this, together with his acquaintance with human nature, enabled him to guard them against the attacks of insidious and designing men beyond the pale of the settlement, who attempted to procure their staple articles below their actual value, or encroach upon their rights in any way. Mr. Mapes was altogether a *wonderful* man, and was, indeed, a shining light to the less favored inhabitants of Pine Ridge, and greatly did they rejoice in this his second appointment to their Circuit. Uncle Jerry was at the class-meeting, too, having walked several miles to be present, and when nearly at the close, kneeling under an open window, he availed himself of the advantages of extemporaneous prayer in an effusion which, although truly sincere, partook more of the nature of oratory than petition, and ran as follows:

"Oh! Lord; Heavenly Marster, we're 'fraid one on us gwine to die right soon. Preserve us if any one of these ones is threatened with death to-night, and prepar the one who are called on to leave these yearthly shores to go straight to glory. Ah, my dear friends an Massers and Missuses, make ready, for 'caus in a hour when you aint a studyin 'bout him, the Son o' man comes. Amen."

Jerry brought Mr. Mapes' horse to the door, and holding the stirrup for him to mount, said:

"Marster, I feer'd ole Jeremire aint never gwine to see you no more in dis world."

"Why, Jerry, are you so despondent? I am sure you are looking very well."

"Taint that. Oh! no, but—" and he went off weeping bitterly, and the Class-leader's horse trotted off at a brisk pace through the rayless gloom, while his clear, melodious voice pealed forth in the words:

"Where is the blessedness I felt
When *first* I saw the Lord?"

He had several miles to ride, and had reached the narrow part of the road, which was bounded on one side by a precipice, and the other by a steep hill, rendering his progress slow; but he had fallen into a train of reflections which absorbed him entirely, for that night one of his charge had made him the recipient of a new embarrassment, and he was seeking to investigate the subject himself, for the more perfect elucidation of it to the brother, when, suddenly, his horse's bridle was seized, and in an instant he was felled to the ground. * * *

The next morning, in passing that way, one of his people observed a horse quietly feeding, which neighed on seeing him approach, and he instantly discovered the body of a man, as he supposed dead.

On raising him, the red current gushed from his side, and he discovered that his heart feebly pulsated. He conveyed him to the nearest house, where, for many weeks, life and death seemed alternately to struggle for the mastery, when at length his vigorous constitution triumphed.

The people of his charge flocked around, each one desirous of manifesting their affection for him, and vigilant to ascertain the perpetrator of so foul an outrage upon the person of their beloved brother and minister. Mabel alone communed with her own heart, and was still." During Mr. Mapes' absence she had received a letter from him, expressive of the deepest affection, and the most poignant sorrow that her father's bitter prejudices should separate two whom he felt convinced were formed to sympathize with and aid each other through life's uneven path; and that he earnestly hoped some auspicious hour would yet crown them one.

"Although, dear Mabel," wrote he, "I often fear that your image comes between my Maker and myself, rendering thereby my sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving unacceptable in His sight; and, alas! how fearful would be the sin of loving the creature more than the Creator; especially to one called upon to minister in holy things."

To which she replied: "Do not, I beseech you, Mr. Mapes, make the least attempt to see me, as every effort of the kind must prove fruitless, and only involve us both in imminent peril."

How nearly fatal the missive had once proved, we have already seen; and, besides, Mabel knew that her father had positively declared "she should not marry the Circuit-Rider, because *he had said* she should not," and he was a man of indomitable will, and would be obeyed by his own family at least.

CHAPTER VI.

"I would not wear the victor's crown,
Nor bind its crimson trophy sheaves,
Nor crave the warrior's proud renown—
I'd rather twine the olive leaves."

The day had been sultry, and Annette walked, after sunset, among the green trees, and the cool breeze fanning her aching brow and soothing her agitated feelings, she extended the circumference of her walk to the boundaries of the grounds which separated their possessions from the public highway, for she reasoned, and naturally too, that the air was as pure and the flowers as fragrant there as in the interior; and why not? She soon heard her name mentioned in tones which she could not mistake.

"I rejoice, dear Annette, that you have so kindly granted my request, since I cannot visit you openly, as I desire to do; these stolen interviews are certainly a gratification for which I can never be sufficiently thankful. How is it, Annette, that you look so pale and dejected?"

"My *thoughts* prey upon me, Benjamin."

"Yes, and they *should not*. A prisoner here you will die. How can you endure this close confinement? Let me prevail upon you to be released from this bondage."

"I cannot, Benjamin; indeed I cannot."

"My dearest Annette, my heart overflows with love for you. Will you answer me one question? Is it reciprocated?"

"I do love thee, Benjamin; and it is this love which I am daily trying to root out of my sinful heart; for Sister Mary says that all such affections are of the earth, earthy,' and must be wholly exterminated if we would be happy either in this world or the next."

"More justly might she say it adds zest to our enjoyments here, and lives after death. But, Annette, when can I see you again?"

"I know not, Benjamin; and I must return now, for should Sister Mary miss me, she would suspect something, and to prevent our interviews, I should be closely confined to the house, or go out always with one of the sisters."

"True. I think I see her white cap now, a kind of ignis-fatuus among the dark boughs, and still darker twilight shadows. Oh! if I could only persuade you to resign captivity and go with me."

"On Sunday, Benjamin, thou canst see me, for we shall all join in the holy dance in the Meeting House."

"At the risk of encountering the piercing glance of Sister Mary."

"Mind, Benjamin, if thou comest and the rapid whirl of our dance should provoke thy mirth, do not indulge it, for Joseph will publicly admonish thee; for to us it is the worship of God, at any rate."

"I will try to behave myself with decorum, and outwardly at least to respect what you hold sacred."

"Do, Benjamin, for Mary's eyes take in *so much*."

"Annette, you have so much beauty, and distinctly fair in a becoming attire."

"I shall not arrange my curls with less care, now that I know *thou* art to be there. I must go."

The Shaker Meeting House was as neat as the combined efforts of the sisters could render it; the long white benches were placed on each side, preparing their broad backs for their anticipated burthens; the boxes, filled with snow-white shavings, and the floor sanded to represent the swelling of the sea. The expectant pegs stretched out their long bony fingers to receive the hats and bonnets, and preparations were completed for an overflowing house, as the weather was fine. Sister Mary was unusually interested on this occasion, and after Annette was dressed with the most studious care, she turned her round, surveying her from head to foot, and added another pin to her neck handkerchief, to insure its entire adaptation to her figure, and again smoothed down her playful locks—for was it not for the interest of the Society to make as favorable an impression as possible? She had always told Annette that "she was decidedly plain in her personal appearance," and "it must be so," thought she, "for Sister Mary says it, and she knows;" but her mirror was certainly deceptive, for the image reflected from its surface was lovely, and she almost felt inclined to doubt the infallibility of Mary's judgment, but that again was high treason at Shakerville.

Sometimes I fear that other than the thoughts of the worship in which she was about to engage crept into the heart of Annette, although it becomes not me to lay aside delicacy and enter unbidden the inner temple of the soul, unscreened by the veil of duplicity and thick curtain of art which conceals the motives of the fashionable belle.

The brethren were habited in long, plain, buttonless coats, with capacious pockets, and their profuse locks were evenly cut and gently reclined upon their shoulders. The sisters entered the opposite door, lightly tipping one after the other, with white folded handkerchiefs laid carefully across the left arm, gray shoes and dresses, and countenances of a like grave aspect.

They were the personification of purity and economy, as no redundancy graced their robes, and the one broad plait on the side was all that relieved the entire plain surface in the least, and their appearance was what one might imagine of the Celestial Nine multiplied by fifteen, condescending to grace these sublunary scenes.

Sister Mary was, as usual, the cynosure of all eyes, and her dark orbs the focus in which all the lesser rays concentrated; consequently she led the dance, and the rest simultaneously joined in its many evolutions. Benjamin saw Annette, and was also observed by Sister Mary. The sisters noticed Annette's evident decline in health, and Mary, with her keen perception, failed not to mark the change too. Benjamin had been peculiarly eloquent in describing the pleasure and freedom of the lives of others compared with hers, and both being much interested in the subject, the floral winged fledgling, Time, passed unheeded by either, when Sister Mary's dignified step was heard pressing the hard gravel into the more impressible soil, and Benjamin quickly disappeared.

"With whom wert thou conversing, Annette?"

"How dost thou know that *any* person spake with me?"

"Thinkest thou to *deceive me?* Can the superficial knowledge of blooming seventeen overreach the well-earned experience of faded fifty-three? 'If these things appear in the green tree, what may we not expect in the dry?'"

"Verily, Sister Mary—"

"Come with me, Annette, I have somewhat to *say* to thee. What means this white-winged messenger, whose form was so carefully concealed in the crevices of yonder stone wall, bounding our sacred enclosure and separating it from unhallowed ground?"

"I think it is Benjamin's letter," said Annette, timidly.

"What authority has he to invade our sacred precincts, to lure away from us one of our rightful children? And what right hast *thou*, a vessel chosen to honor,' to listen to the beguiling voice of a worldling?"

"The right which the Creator has implanted in every human breast; that of *loving*."

"Annette, thy mite of worldly wisdom surpasses all thy other knowledge. To think that the patient lessons of years should be so soon eradicated by the sophistry of a stripling. It grieves me to witness thy apostacy, and to see thy heart swayed by a sinful passion which our saint-like sect interdict. Does he *love* thee, Annette? Can the plant of a few weeks growth strike as deep into the soil as that of many years? I say, Annette, does *he* love thee?"

"He *doth*, Sister Mary."

"Nay, say rather thou *thinkest* so, for what *knowest* thou of men's deceitful hearts? I tell thee their honied words are often as fatal as the serpent's sting. Didst thou never hear what power the snake hath to charm the unwary bird to its poisonous fangs? Would to Heaven I had died before knowing this—better far to lay my gray hairs on the bosom of my mother earth than see the child of my adoption thus departing from my precepts. When Dugald Cameron intrusted thee to our care, gratefully and lovingly did we receive thee; not exulting in the advantages of addition in numbers, but as a tender sapling whose form might be trained to stand erect and *alone*, weighing well our responsibility for time and eternity, and in that light regarding thee a precious, priceless trust. Radiant are the jewels which glitter in an earthly monarch's diadem, and sparkling the gems which decorated the temple of Solomon, but thou wert an inestimable treasure, an heir to a crown of the Savior's own adorning, whose unsullied brilliancy 'it hath not entered into the heart of man to conceive.'"

"And yet I *love* thee, Sister Mary."

"If thou *lovedst*, thou wouldst not *leave* me."

"Verily I *do* love thee, Sister Mary, and yet there is room in my heart for more—and an emotion has sprung up there which even the plenitude of thy affection does not fully satisfy."

"I commend thy candor, while I implore, nay I command thee, as thou valuest peace of mind, to quench this unhallowed flame."

"Verily, I *have* tried."

"Strive more. 'To him that *overcometh* was the promise made; and where canst thou find so happy and safe a home as thou hast with us? Our moral rectitude and commercial integrity are well known and highly esteemed."

"And yet the world's people did say our goods were marked beyond their actual value, and it was scarcely honest so to dispose of them."

"'Twas the naught, the naught of the buyer, who goeth his way and boasteth.' Annette, be ever jealous for the honor of the Society; remember, no superfluities mark our dress, no vagrants belonging to our sect are ever seen soliciting charity, our seeds germinate in almost every garden in the Union, and our manufactures brush the dust alike from the palace and the hovel. We disregard self-interest and attach ourselves to the public good—and doth not such purity of principle engage thy affections?"

"Sister Mary, I am weary of this plummet and line life. I would travel, see new faces, and learn more of the world."

"Yea, Annette, and the more thou learnest of the wide world, the less wilt thou love it. With costly apparel and gold, as if arrayed for the ball-room or theatre, does the fashionable lady enter the sanctuary for worship, and as the ostrich leaveth her eggs in the sand, not knowing who may crush them, does the Christian mother often leave her daughter unguarded from the attacks of the unprincipled, not knowing whose influence she may fall under, and the result is what I fear for thee—an unhappy marriage; woman's greatest curse. I warned thy mother, before thee, Annette; now I warn thee."

"Was my mother's marriage not happy?"

"Did she not die early? Yea, Margaret Cameron, thou wouldst not listen to me, and thy life was the forfeit. Thou sayest thou art curious to see the world. Let me tell thee, Annette, curiosity is a dangerous gift to woman, and meagre is the compensation of the world to its most devoted adherents. The mother of mankind, by the indulgence of a fatal curiosity, involved her whole posterity in ruin. Antony sacrificed a world for the fascinating charms of Cleopatra, and both ignobly perished. Ulysses spurned the bribe of immortality to gratify the whim of a passing moment. Queen Elizabeth's royal heart was deeply touched with the tender passion, but, mollified and melting as it often was beneath its powerful sway, she nobly advised to her first revolution to live and die a maiden princess. The excellent Hannah More was also content to breathe out her life in single blessedness, and thereby left an invaluable gift to the world. On the other hand, reflect upon the fate of Josephine, the wife of the man who deluged Europe in blood, and that of Mrs. McLean, one of the literary stars, and tell me, is matrimony desirable? Pope has written of 'the chief end of man,' and one would think that woman's chief purpose was to marry if they embraced prevailing opinions; but, Annette, to educate woman with that sole object is a fatal mistake, and they who imbibe it will find that it will sting its victims to the heart's core."

"And yet, Sister Mary, almost all the world does marry, sooner or later."

"Of the world's people thou meanest, not of our people, for, like that inspired single writer, they think it better to abide even as he did; and mark the quotation, 'the unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband.' But thou wilt go, for thou seemest not to be convinced, and if I could but save thee, my beloved child, I would relate my own history, although it has been for many years a sealed book, and will expose a fountain whose depths have not been stirred since I was young, Annette, and that was not yesterday, as thee knows."

Annette instinctively drew her stool nearer Sister Mary's chair, for a shuddering came over her, as she saw her turn the door key for fear of interruption.

"Yea, come near, my Annette, and lay thy head on my lap, as thou didst when a child I first encircled thee with my fostering love. Thou didst then think Sister Mary was cold and unfeeling, but thou wilt yet learn that no warmer, truer heart than hers ever beat in woman's breast. 'Tis well that darkness envelopes us, for I could not give thee such details in the light; for if day blushes at the recital of foul deeds, what must it have done when witnessing their actual commission? But, to my task—and I am equal to it, for I have ever made it a point to shrink from nothing from which good can possibly result."

CHAPTER VII.

SISTER MARY'S HISTORY.

Man's love, extinguished, blooms again,
In pleasure's path he soothes his pain;
For woman's wound no balm appears,
No hand shall dry her bitter tears.

Like the tender, trusting vine,
Clinging round the giant oak,
Did my warm affections twine
Till my heart in anguish woke.

"I was an only child, and reared in affluence; my slightest wish was gratified as soon as expressed. Far be it from me to say that I approve the course which was pursued in my education, for as I survey the past, I can see that it was extremely defective and censurable, as well unfavorable to my subsequent happiness, or even tranquility of mind. The child fed upon sweets loses his relish for substantial food, nor can he easily be persuaded to swallow the bitter draught necessary to restore to health its ill-eased frame. I hated reproof, and my mother, seeing the turbulent spirit which it arouse, seldom administered it. An unclouded morning is no sure precursor of a tranquil evening, and no preparation for one of darkness and storm. Being an heiress, many suitors sought to win me, and one whom my mother least respected, and who proved least worthy of esteem, I regret to say, possessed most attraction for me, and I married him. The miseries of that marriage I cannot adequately pourtray, nor can language depict the agony which the victim of an ill-assorted marriage must endure. My husband being naturally of an irrascible temper, which, with the addition of the habit of intemperance and its accompanying vices, I was almost driven to despair, and loathed my existence. My mother died soon after, but not until she had beheld me filled with remorse and anguish; reaping the bitter fruits of my folly and disobedience. Very seldom are the injunctions of a parent transgressed with impunity; and it does appear that God signally punishes the rebellious child in proportion as he extends the promise of long life to the obedient one.

"I cannot describe to thee, Annette, I must not reveal to thy unsophisticated mind all that I suffered from his infidelity, cruelty and violence; and those dark days, the consequence of that ill starred union, will never fade from my remembrance. My mind was like the volcano of Etna, continually emitting the black cloud of discontent, the incense of murmuring, the burning lava of fierce anger and resentment. Like the waters of the Nile, my tears overflowed their borders, and I wept day and night, not for my sins, but my misfortunes—for, believe me, Annette, there are pangs inflicted in an unhappy marriage known only to the sufferer and his Maker, and scenes of trial which no mortal eye must witness, and none save the ear of Omnipotence hear; yea, things which thou must not acknowledge even to thy own heart if thou wouldst endure life. Believe me, Annette, woman's affection is a sacred deposit, and wo to the perfidious wretch who lightly regards it. It is the point where the human heart most exquisitely feels, and if angels stoop to condemn iniquity, or fiends rejoice at the downfall of a sinner, the betrayer of woman's love must call forth their strongest animadversion. About this time was sent by my Heavenly Father the blessed gift of my little Laura, and her presence shed a cheerful light over the thickest gloom of my joyless home, and in her was centred all the affection of which my unworthy husband would have otherwise been the sharer. The bliss of maternity repaid me for my past sufferings, soothed my present sorrows, and I gazed into the future with a confident, trusting spirit, grounded upon the belief that all would yet be well; and I recollect my feelings found vent in the following effusion, which, although my first attempt in metre, I will read thee, as they were called forth by the pensive expression which her countenance assumed at that early age:

"Welcome, welcome, little stranger,
To a world of sin and woe;
Who can tell what bliss or danger
Waits you ere from hence you go?

"With the falling verdure coming,
Learn a lesson from the leaf;
Hear the forest children humming
'Mortal life is sadly brief.'

"Nature's law that matter never
Can annihilated be,
Is a type of thy forever
In a vast eternity.

"Bright and beauteous is thy morning,
As the verdant leaflet's bloom;
Harshly falls the dreaded warning
Of thy sad prophetic doom.

"Like their lustrous surface fading
Must thy beauties pass away;
As another spring invading
Greets the gorgeous new array.

"So the resurrection morning
All thy glory shall restore,
And the dazzling new adorning
Gild thy brows for evermore.

"I have said that her name was Laura, which was bestowed out of respect to her deceased grandmother, for I felt so conscience-smitten for my mad indifference to her wishes while living, that I wished to show every mark of respect to her memory to atone as far as possible for the past. Her nurse begged me not to name her after the dead, as that was ominous;' but with such a motive to induce me, I of course entirely disregarded her superstitious fears. In every trial my overcharged heart sought relief from her smiles, and my griefs were all buried in her caresses. My affection for her must have amounted to wild idolatry, since I cannot recollect that any other love exercised sovereignty over me at that time, and she was the all-absorbing theme of my thoughts by day, and the burthen of my dreams at night; and calmly I could have borne his insolence, desertion and perfidy, if I could have sunned my desolate heart in the warm atmosphere of her loving presence. But even this boon was denied me; for, returning late one night, in a fit of intoxication, he began, as usual, to censure me for some trivial thing, and I, perceiving his situation, made no reply, which so exasperated him that he seized a chair and inflicted a heavy blow on the head of Laura. 'Wretch!' cried I, 'you have killed my child!' So it proved, for the blow fell upon the temple and caused instantaneous death; and thus was rooted out the only flower in my desolate pathway. The horrors of that night I cannot describe."

At this portion of the recital, Sister Mary's dark orbs flashed with unearthly brightness, shedding an unnatural light on the face of Annette through the sombre shadows by which they were surrounded.

"Throughout the long watches of that dreary night, I was alone with my dead child, and I think reason must have been dethroned, for I was afterwards informed that I was found pressing the baby like a vice, and when forced from me, plead long and earnestly to be buried with it. Of the days succeeding the funeral, I cannot speak with any degree of correctness, for fever seized me, and all was a horribly confused dream. * * * *

"Though many winters have wrapt their snowy mantles around that little grave, and many summers have spread their verdant carpets and decked with beauteous flowers its rounded surface, yet is the memory of that event as fresh as if it were but yesterday; for sorrow is a plant of perennial bloom, and in all save the spirit of retaliation and revenge, I am the same. Time, the great mollifier of human ills, has not healed the wound, but the Great Physician has applied the balm of Gilead, and its soothing power enables me to bear earth's keenest pangs. A voice at my side said 'drink, Mary, drink of Lethe's fabled stream and drown thy sorrows;' but an angel visitant pointed to the wise Gardener who had removed the tender scion to a purer atmosphere, and ingrafted it in a gentler stock. Once, sitting by that little mound at the hour of midnight, the moonbeam's purity contrasting with my benighted feelings, I invoked the presence of Laura in the following strain:

"Look down, thou white winged dove,
From yon celestial spheres,
Behold my blighted love,
My penitential tears.

"Tell me, my angel child,
If there's among the blest
One sinner so defiled,
In rooms of pardon drest.

"Among the seraphs bright,
Were soul-like mine forgiven?
And clad in garments white,
And taught the songs of Heaven?

"Sweet spirit, hover near,
And shed the halo hope;
And to my vision drear
Its golden gateways ope.

"My messenger for good,
My guardian angel be;
If ransomed by his blood,
The tidings borne by thee.

"As her birth prompted the first, so at her grave died my last effort of this kind, for I am a matter-of-fact person, and never dealt much with the romance of life, having, alas! known much of its fearful reality.

"Would you know if resentment has died within me?" And Sister Mary's dark orbs again sparkled, as she said: "I have forgiven the *man*, but I *hate* the *murderer!* That night he fled, and still wanders a fugitive from justice. An ocean's waters roll between us; I wish it were two, and an impassable chain of mountains also.

"His secret I have kept for him until this night, and *take heed*, Annette, it *must not* pass thy lips *while I live*. I do not know what conjecture the surrounding inhabitants formed, but seeing my distress, they assisted me in disposing of my property, at least what remained, for my husband had spent nearly all. There was, fortunately, a portion over which he had no control, and that was sufficient for my support, the wails of which I brought here with me. The toilet drapery, Annette, in our spare bedroom was my wedding-dress; and now I *like not* matrimony; I yearn for no wedding save that of the bride, the Lamb's wife.'

"I am many hundred miles from the spot where these events transpired, but I sometimes fear if I should meet that man even now, I should abhor him, for my hatred is *bitter*, as my love is *strong;* but I think not to see him until we both appear before the throne of the Invisible, and I trust ere that time the transforming power of grace will enable me to meet the destroyer of my peace and the murderer of my child in the spirit which loves much, as much has been forgiven.'

"Annette, I love these people, for 'they neither marry nor are given in marriage;' but *thou lovest* Benjamin, and thou wilt *go with him*, and his people will be thy people, his God thy God;' for when woman loves she clings to the object, though light and reason oppose her at *every step* of her progress—and—so *did I*.

"I have seen its power sweeping over thee like a devastating flood, threatening to hurl thee in its vortex, and jeopardizing thy happiness and thy life. Yea, Annette, the night thou returnedst from the town I knew, from thy absence of mind, that some extraordinary influence operated upon thee; for when I inquired of thee if thou hadst dampened thy feet, thou repliedst, 'Nay'—'yea,'—'I don't know;' and since that time thy mind has ever seemed preoccupied. Thou wert wont to be more specific in thy answers to me. I observed, too, that thy shoes were not moistened, as they would have been after a long walk in a damp evening; and that night suspicion was my room-mate and jealousy shared my couch. Yea, Benjamin may well call me 'Argus-eyed Sister Mary,' (again the lightning-flash was seen,) and I wish I had Briareus' hands and the dog Cerberus to guard thee, and the Chinese wall to enclose our consecrated possessions, and protect our lambs from the world's wolves, the fawning flatterer, and the base sycophant.

"Would you know if resentment has died within me?" And Sister Mary's dark orbs again sparkled, as she said: "I have forgiven the *man*, but I *hate* the *murderer!* That night he fled, and still wanders a fugitive from justice. An ocean's waters roll between us; I wish it were two, and an impassable chain of mountains also.

"His secret I have kept for him until this night, and *take heed*, Annette, it *must not* pass thy lips *while I live*. I do not know what conjecture the surrounding inhabitants formed, but seeing my distress, they assisted me in disposing of my property, at least what remained, for my husband had spent nearly all. There was, fortunately, a portion over which he had no control, and that was sufficient for my support, the wails of which I brought here with me. The toilet drapery, Annette, in our spare bedroom was my wedding-dress; and now I *like not* matrimony; I yearn for no wedding save that of the bride, the Lamb's wife.'

"I am many hundred miles from the spot where these events transpired, but I sometimes fear if I should meet that man even now, I should abhor him, for my hatred is *bitter*, as my love is *strong;* but I think not to see him until we both appear before the throne of the Invisible, and I trust ere that time the transforming power of grace will enable me to meet the destroyer of my peace and the murderer of my child in the spirit which loves much, as much has been forgiven.'

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"As her birth prompted the first, so at her grave died my last effort of this kind, for I am a matter-of-fact person, and never dealt much with the romance of life, having, alas! known much of its fearful reality

THE DOLLAR NEWSPAPER.

PHILADELPHIA:

Wednesday Morning, December 23, 1863.

THE EUROPEAN CONGRESS.

The proposed Congress of Powers, to settle the affairs of Europe, has fallen from a weakness which is inherent to this plan of settling questions affecting the political rights of States and Empires which have endured for centuries. If a majority of the governments of the world were looking to the same end, the good only of the people whom they represent, and no hereditary rights, or privileges originally secured by force, long enjoyed, and incorporated into the structures of the governments, interfered, with a fair solution of all political questions likely to affect the peace of the world, there would probably be no better method of settling these questions than for all the Powers concerned to meet together, compare ideas, present the difficulties and suggest the remedies which would preserve the general harmony, and allow each to pursue its own particular national good. But the influencing motive with the old established governments of Europe is less the benefit of the great mass of their people, than it is the security of the privileges the sovereigns or the governing classes have acquired, and any question of political right which arises is sure at once to meet, as a barrier to its progress, there ancient privileges, hereditary powers and arbitrary settlements. The absence of any supreme authority acknowledged by all the Powers, is an insuperable difficulty to the settlement of any question by a representative Congress. Where all are sovereign, none are willing to allow the pretensions of any single Power or combination of Powers as a restraining influence over their actions. And there being no common arbiter to refer to, a majority of the powers are thrown back upon the only alternative—the force of arms—to enforce their decrees, a recourse which it is the object and purpose of such political assemblages to avoid. The French Emperor must have foreseen these difficulties when he proposed the European Congress. In his letter, however, to Queen Victoria, he seems to be imbued with the hope that their united counsels could influence the settlement of the difficult questions which now agitate Europe. He said:

"I considered attentively the situation of the different countries. It is impossible not to admit that on almost all points the treaties of Vienna are destroyed, modified, disregarded, or menaced. Hence there are duties without our rights, rights without title, prerogatives without restraint. A peril the more formidable, since the improvements produced by civilization, has united peoples together by an identity of material interests, would render war still more destructive. This is a matter for serious reflection. Let us not delay taking a decision until sudden and irresistible events disturb our judgment and draw us, in spite of ourselves, in opposite directions. Now, therefore, I propose to your Majesty to regulate the present, and to secure the future, by means of a congress. Summoned to it by France and Providence and the will of the French people, but borne down by the sting of adversity, it is perhaps less allowable for me than for others to ignore the rights of sovereigns and the legitimate aspirations of peoples. Thus I am ready, without any preconceived system, to take part in an international council a spirit of moderation and justice, the ordinary portion of those who have under great difficulties tried it. I take the initiative in such an overture. I do not yield to an impulse of vanity, but because I am the sovereign to whom ambitious projects have mostly been attributed. I have it at heart to prove, by this frank and loyal overture, that my sole object is to arrive, without convulsion, at the pacification of Europe."

The subject seems to have received careful and considerate attention from the British Government, and the objections which naturally present themselves, in the complicated arrangement of European politics, are urged as reasons for declining to accept the proposal made by the Emperor. Earl Russell refers to the fact that the separate and united remonstrances of the ruling Powers have already failed in the case of Poland. Would there be any advantage in repeating, in the name of a Congress, representations which have already failed in their effect, or would they be able to secure better terms from Russia, unless by a combined employment of force? The prospect then is either "the humiliation of Europe or a war with Russia." In regard to Italy, the difficulties are equally as insurmountable. The Pope, and dispossessed princes, might object to give a title hitherto refused to the King of Italy, and the King of Italy might object to a settlement which would exclude him from Venetia. Austria would attend no Congress in which her right to Venetia was to be questioned. So with regard to Germany and Denmark; the addition of Spain, Portugal, Italy and Turkey to the deliberation would scarcely improve the prospect of a satisfactory solution. And if, with regard to Poland and Italy, no beneficial result is likely to be attained, is it expedient to call together a general Congress of all the States of Europe, to find a remedy for the anarchy of Moldo-Wallachia? The mere expression of wishes and opinions, Earl Russell says, will accomplish no results.

"It appears certain that the deliberations of a Congress would consist of demands and pretensions put forward by some and resisted by others; and, there being no supreme authority in such an assembly to enforce the decisions of the majority, the Congress would probably separate leaving many of its members on worse terms with each other than they had when they met. But if this would be the probable result, it follows that no decisions or armaments is likely to be effected by the proposed Congress."

The prospect of a European Congress must now be considered as dead, and the influences disturbing the peace of Europe must take their course. Still, the proposal, and the discussion of such a project, are not without their benefits. It is an admission that reason is a better arbiter in national disputes than the sword, and leaves force as a legitimate weapon only, in the hands of the people against a Government not founded on popular rights.

EXEMPTIONS FROM THE DRAFT!

Notice has been given of the introduction of a bill in Congress, to repeal the $300 exemption clause from the draft bill. If this is done would it not be better to repeal the whole draft bill at once? It is true that bill has procured us an army of fifty thousand men and ten millions of dollars. But these results are nothing to what might have been procured by other and less exhaustive means. The draft bill has probably cost us more than fifty thousand men, by rendering volunteering unpopular and unthought of. No country at large war can be carried on by drafting. The conscription system does not suit our notions of freedom so well as it suits the peasantry of Europe, who for ages have been like other cattle driven. Here men are disposed to go in for anything of this kind for honor, for the love of country, for preferment, or as a matter of business, but "not upon compulsion."

In this country the great and only true mainspring of action in the present rebellion will be the love of honor and of our country, as one and indivisible. Large bounties ought to be paid and must be, because the pecuniary sacrifice which a man makes in going to the wars is immediate then, whereas to grow and quite disproportioned to his losses, as compared with those who stay at home. But it must be an honoring those who go, by making the soldier's life, where other things are equal, the high road to all preferments because courage and willingness to suffer in a good cause are qualities which, while not in themselves the sum total of all virtues, as some have supposed, are the necessary foundations of all greatness of character and virtue Treating the men in the army more considerately and kindly, and lessening the autocratic pretensions of the officers will tend to make service in the ranks more popular. Raising the monthly pay of the soldiers, by offering a remuneration nearly approaching the rewards of industrial occupations, will draw larger numbers voluntarily into the ranks.

Many persons have conscientious scruples against all fighting. This war has lessened the number of such very greatly we admit because he cause has been so just and clear, and so directly appealing to the conscience, as well as the hopes and patriotism of the North, that many who never before, or under other circumstances, would think of taking arms, have done so in this case most properly. But many of the Friends, for instance, still feel that they cannot take up a musket drafted. They feel and say that Government, as such, has a right to take their property, but has no right to compel their consciences into the commission of what they consider a crime. There are many others who equally are conscientiously opposed to taking life. No doubt others might pretend to this as the easiest way of getting off. But for two hundred years, ever since the State of Pennsylvania has been founded, it has been distinctly understood that some of the best citizens hold this view. Those men may be *drawn* to a higher view of social duties in a case like the present, but they cannot be driven. You may tie a musket to their hands and march them in the ranks, as the rebels did the North Carolina Quakers, but this will not make them fight, but only arm conscience against the Government.

This rebellion must be put down by *volunteers*. The Government has a right to *tax* property, and it has a right to bestow any or all of its honors on those brave men who fight for its existence. It has a right, in case of invasion, perhaps, or of danger to the women and children of a State, to call on all men to fight to defend them. But it will be far wiser and more effectual in putting down this rebellion in the South not to use force without the possibility of exemption in any case to compel men to enter the ranks. There are other ways by which all who will be worth anything can be effectually secured with less of evasion by all sorts of frauds and devices than the conscription laws.

THE PIRATE CHESAPEAKE AND THE MOB OF HALIFAX.

A sympathizing mob at Halifax has rescued from the hands of the Government officers the prisoners handed over to them by the United States officers who captured them. Those prisoners were captured in the steamer within British waters, and subsequently were taken to Halifax to be delivered to the civil authorities there. Unless these authorities had given their consent to the capture, the act was an offence against the sovereign rights of the British Government, which our Government will have to satisfactorily explain. Their rescue from the local officers specially with the warrants for their arrest, is an offence against the laws of the province, which the mob will be held accountable for, to the provincial authority. The fitting out of the expedition in Nova Scotia and from the subjects of that province, is an offence both against British law and the law of nations of which our Government may very properly complain and ask redress. Whether the expedition was commissioned or not by the Confederate Government, can make no difference in the character of the offence committed against international law. The Queen's proclamation of neutrality prohibits any of her subjects leaving her territories for any such hostile purpose, and the pirates are clearly liable to punishment under British law for their act of hostility against the United States. The prompt surrender of the crew of the Chesapeake to the British authorities after her recapture, will go far towards diverting the act of any serious intention to offend the sovereignty of England, if that question is raised. It was a mistake act which our Government will [illegible] the Provincial authority, however, will scarcely let its authority be set at defiance by its own subjects either against our or their own laws.

THE JAPANESE TROUBLES.

Among the matters touched on in the President's Message to Congress is the character of our relations with Japan, and it is so touched upon as will show to the world that upon the whole we have better understood how to get along peacefully with foreign nations than some of our neighbors, while yet we are not and have not been indifferent to our own rights and the rights of other nations to be justly treated. There is no doubt that Japan, shut out for ages from almost all foreign intercourse, has become ignorant of the rights of nations as such, even when secured by treaties, and has failed to recognize any power that could compel those rights to be respected. As a general thing national governments have only a right to consider and know anything about national governments, or, in other words nations should treat nations as units represented each by its own government.

When, however, not the government but the people of one nation or a portion of the people treat the government of another nation in an insulting or hostile manner, and the government confesses its inability to restrain its own subjects, a merciful and compassionate regard for the imperfection of all human institutions should make the injured nation consider whether it cannot by strengthening the government enable it to fulfil its treaty obligations, instead of destroying the government because it has not fulfilled them. It is with the body politic as it is with many a sick patient. A few years ago in cases of typhoid fever all sorts of depleting remedies were employed to lower the fever. But now, when the fever itself is known only to be itself the result of poison in the system, it is found that the best way is to support the patient's strength by stimulating it sufficiently to throw off the poison.

So it is with national diseases. When a government is honestly bent on fulfilling its treaty obligations, though it may be too weak fully to do so, the wisest method is not to destroy respect for the government, but to lend it sufficient aid to put down all opposition to its authority. We ourselves have seen the mischievous effects of an opposite course. The United States Government has heartily endeavored to keep open commercial intercourse, most freely, and from all its ports, with all the world. But the rebellion of the South to attempt to break up our custom houses and forts in every Southern port. It was for the interest of Europe either to stand neutral or else to act with every view to strengthen our government to throw off the power of this rebellion. Had either of these been done, this rebellion would long since have been done away, and commercial intercourse for cotton been resumed. Indeed, but for the expectation of foreign aid, this intercourse never would have been interrupted.

But, by encouraging, in every indirect manner, the aristocratic leaders of the South to rebel, and maintain their rebellion, in hopes that their independence might be acknowledged, some of the powers of Europe have made the most miserable of blunders, if not the most outrageous of crimes. It is just the same in Japan. The Tycoon appears sincerely desirous of maintaining his treaties with foreign powers. The aristocracy of the Empire, haughty as our own Southerners, and used to domination, have roused their power to resist and defy treaties, the Government of their own, and the whole world. Of course this must be put down; but the Japanese Government is paralyzed, and cannot. Our policy would seem to be, if possible, to aid the Government of Japan to combine with the masses, and overthrow the hereditary aristocracy. Every government has more or less of an aristocracy and a democracy. When any two of these combine against the other power of the State, they always succeed. When an Emperor like Alexander of Russia puts himself at the head of the popular party, by abolishing serfdom, he can afford to quarrel with the most formidable aristocracy of Europe. So now, if the Tycoon and the masses of the people can be brought to favor the foreign treaties, the Government should be supported and strengthened If not, it must and will be destroyed.

THE REBEL FINANCES.

The rebel Secretary of the Treasury, in his financial report shows anything but a flattering exhibit of the financial condition of the Confederacy. The receipts of the Government for nine months of the present year, were $600 000 0.0, only four of which were raised by a war tax, two millions by sequestered property and one from the sales of the rest in treasury notes and loans at 8 per cent. The expenditures are up to the receipts within a venteen millions. The amount required for the ensuing calendar year, including the undrawn appropriations of last Congress will be $1 427,448,778 The enormous issue of treasury notes has raised prices five times higher than they ought to be. He proposes therefore, to reduce the currency $:00,000,000, which, by reducing prices, will save the Government a great part of its present expenses. But to raise the remainder of the sum required, he proposes a loan of one thousand millions of dollars, in six per cent. bonds, principal payable in twenty years; interest semi annually, paid in coin. The loan to be extended hereafter from time to time, till the whole debt is consolidated. The said bonds to be sold at par in amounts sufficient to take up the outstanding currency, and to pay the appropriations made by Congress. The interest paid in coin, equivalent to $60,000,000 yearly. This is to be followed by a tax of five per cent. upon the ad valorem of all property in the Confederacy, estimated at three thousand millions, which would yield $120,000,000, deducting losses, cost of collection, &c. Half of this tax to be paid in specie, or the interest coupon of this loan, the other half in treasury notes. The requirement to pay one-half of the tax in coin or in the coupons of the consolidated loan will create in every tax-payer a desire, he thinks, to possess these bonds. Just in proportion to the extent of his property will he have occasion for the bonds, and a universal demand for them will be created by making the tax universal. The treasury notes are to be funded in the loan before the 1st of April next In reply to the objection that the limitation of the time in which the treasury notes may be redeemed is a violation of the compact, expressed or implied, on which they were taken. Mr. Memminger raises the argument that the measure is a necessity of war, and unless it is adopted these very notes will cease to be of value. The proposed scheme tenders the creditor payment of his debt before it is due in a security of greater value Unless relief is afforded by the prompt adoption of this plan, the consequences are thus depicted in the Secretary's own language:

"The continuance of the notes as a circulating medium to their present extent involves the ruin of public and private credit, and will deprive the Government of the means of defending the lives and property of its citizens. If the currency remains in its present expanded state, no measure of relief can be made effectual. Prices must advance, and the means of the Government to pay those prices must be daily less efficiency. Taxes become fruitless, by reason of the depreciation of the money. The army can neither be paid, clothed nor subsisted, and functions of war can no longer be supplied; the officers of the Government cannot be supported, and the country must succumb."

NEEDS INVESTIGATION.—The public are so accustomed to the destruction of life by war, that the loss of half the crew of one of our national vessels, with the vessel itself scarcely makes an impression upon them or elicits a comment. Yet the loss of the ironclad monitor Weehawken, while lying at anchor in Charleston harbor, is an occurrence which ought to awaken public attention as well as government investigation. The vessel had just received her new armament, and when she was on a visit to her she shipped a heavy sea, which entered the forward hatch and filled the anchor room. The officers paid no attention whatever to the condition of the vessel, but went on with their dinner till presently the vessel had sunk so low that the water came pouring in in a rapid stream, and down she went with all on board. It is scarcely necessary, after this statement, to raise the question whether the monitors are safe vessels or not. No vessel under similar neglect to danger would be any safer. They have proven themselves to be very safe vessels for the service for which they are intended receiving attacks without severe damage and inflicting injury by their heavy guns. These vessels can be so closed up as to be water tight, and nothing then but knocking a hole in the bottom could sink them. Ordinary care would have prevented this accident which has lost the government the services of a valuable vessel and the country the loss of a quarter of a hundred of its citizens.

EMIGRATION FROM EUROPE.—The number of persons leaving Liverpool for America in eleven months of this year was 136.000. The great majority of these emigrants were Irish going to the United States, and the steady drain from Ireland is creating apprehensions that the country may become comparatively depopulated. The English journals, speaking of the matter, attribute the exodus from Ireland, to the temptations held out in the United States to the laboring population, the high wages received and the certainty of employment. The want of laborers in this country has induced extra exertions to obtain them from abroad. Some of the States have Commissioners of Emigration on the Continent of Europe, attending especially to this matter, and their efforts have been attended with success as the above results show. While the war lasts there is likely to be the same scarcity, and when it closes, the changed relations of service in this country will increase the demand for white labor.

THE INCOME TAX.—The Commissioner of Revenue suggests that the income tax be left untouched, except in a few particulars. He thinks the deduction for house rent ought to be stricken out, and that owners of such houses residing in them, should be charged with the rental value as income. He suggests a change also in the rate of taxation of large incomes. Those over $5000 and less than $10,000 to be charged four per cent. Those over $10,000 and less than $20,000 five per cent. Those exceeding $20,000 five and a half or six per cent. The English rate is now over four per cent. in time of peace, and during the Russian war it was upwards of five and eight-tenth per cent. on all incomes over £150. The Commissioner thinks if England will sustain four per cent for a war of conquest, Americans ought to bear it for a war of freedom. But Americans may say the English are better used to it.

SCARCITY OF BOYS.—The New York Journals complain that the scarcity of boys for industrial employment is unprecedented in that city. The same scarcity is observable here and an advertisement which used to bring applicants of that character in troops will now be answered but by two or three persons. In public schools, also, it is remarked that the boys save the grammar schools at an earlier age than formerly. This is believed to be owing to the call for boys in industrial pursuits which men, now absent in war, formerly filled, the high wages given being an inducement with many parents to forego the advantages of a more complete education for their children for the pecuniary [illegible] of present benefit.

THE LOSS OF THE WEEHAWKEN.

Opposite Portsmouth Harbor is a reach of the British Channel, called Spithead. It is said that a thousand sail of vessels could safely anchor there at one time, protected from the British Channel seas by the isle of Wight. The depth of water is from ten to sixteen fathoms, or it is from twice to three times as deep as the part of Charleston harbor where the Weehawken went down so suddenly, the other day. Spithead, the great mustering point of many a British fleet, was made memorable on the 28th of June, 1782, by the sudden sinking of the Royal George, under circumstances equally abrupt and unexpected with those which have occasioned the loss of our noble iron clad. In both cases the least precaution might have saved the vessel.

The Royal George was a hundred gun line-of-battle ship, and had on board Admiral Kempenfelt, and a crew of more than four hundred and a large number of visiters, men and women. The vessel was in one side, for the purpose of making some repairs below the water line. No one anticipated the slightest danger; the lower ports were all left open, and the guns unlashed, when a sudden squall of wind, in connection with the change of the tide, threw her broadside on the water. She filled in a few minutes, through her opened port holes, and down she went, with her Admiral, officers, and the entire crew and visitors—by some computed at eight hundred, in all—there being no time for boats to be lowered. Thus perished, through sheer carelessness, in five minutes, a ship, which was, for those times, about such a defence as the Weehawken for these.

There is no question but that the recent accident off Charleston will be commented upon all over the civilized world, and in terms most injurious to us. The rebels will regard it as a sort of Divine interposition on their behalf. But in Europe it will be regarded in a very different sort of a way. There they have always protested that our whole tribe of monitors was perfectly unseaworthy, and this will no doubt be brought as confirmation strong as holy writ, it being the second that has already sunk like lead in the mighty waters To all this we can only say that, so far as this last accident is concerned, it is no more a proof of the unseaworthiness of monitors generally, than the foundering of the Royal George at Spithead was a proof of the unseaworthiness of the old Dutch built hundred gun men-of-war of those times. Freshly laden to her utmost capacity, with shot and shell, the most common precautions seem to have been neglected in the case of the Weehawken. When she shipped heavy seas, no effort was made with the pumps until just as she was going down The crew all sat down to dinner with a most reckless confidence. Her water-tight compartments would have saved her but that bolts and bars had been carelessly mislaid and could not be found, The other monitors lying all round her were not one of them, for a moment, considered as in danger. Her captain had but that day been put in command of her, and was at the time of the accident away on duty. This, at first view, seems to lessen his responsibility. But surely the captain of a ship should, when he takes command, first of all, put himself in possession of her exact condition. To receive such a trust without, by personal inspection, or even direct report, ascertaining that the water-proof compartments *are* water-proof, or the most vital arrangements of the vessel in working order, is surely a piece of neglect and carelessness, deserving of the highest censure. This event will no doubt suggest many precautions and improvements in the management of these vessels. But in the meantime we are forced to confess that a brilliant as have been some one or two acts of our navy and these monitors this year, it has not, upon the whole, been a brilliant season for our arms upon the sea. We have captured some magnificent prizes, and the enemy has done us no harm, but our carelessness and neglect have done us harm, and caused us to suffer alike by the encroachments of the sea on our own vessels and those of the enemy upon our peaceful mercantile marine. (After many attempts the Royal George was blown to pieces and removed in 1844, by Col. Pasley. Let us at least hope that in shorter time we shall be able to raise the Weehawken.

THE COST OF MATERIALS.

The general rise in prices, owing to the present state of our country, the disturbance produced in the relations of labor, and the financial changes necessary to the prosecution of hostilities, has affected every business in the country and every transaction of a business character. But there are some particular kinds of business, which are more severely affected by the political disturbances arising from the rebellion, than even by those of a financial character. The stoppage of all commercial intercourse with the rebellious States has diminished the supply of various commodities, which were produced almost exclusively in that part of the country, and at very cheap prices. Thus the country, and nearly the whole commercial world, depended upon the South for cotton and for rosin and turpentine. The first mentioned article has increase from 10 a dull cents per pound to 75 and even higher, and many of the cotton mills have in consequence shut up, or changed the character of their manufactures to woollen goods, flax fabrics and even arms for the government. A similar state of whole much nory for this purpose. The cost of rosin and turpentine has so increased in price as to almost revolutionize the operations of some kinds of business; the house painter, for instance, has to supply the use of turpentine for his paints with a substitute from benzine, obtained from coal oil. Cotton enters into the manufacture of printing paper, and its greatly increased price, from diminution of supply, with the additional cost of the raw material of straw, which combines with it in the manufacture, has added largely to the cost of paper, so that, with a few exceptions, all the journals and weekly newspapers have been compelled to increase their sale and subscription prices Rosin is the chief ingredient in the manufacture of printers' ink, and it is absolutely necessary to the manufacturer, he not being able to find an available substitute for it. The price of rosin has risen since the rebellion commenced about *twenty-five hundred per cent!* The price of rosin, July 18th, 1859, was quoted in our markets at $1 75 per barrel; December 14th, 1859, it was quoted at $2 75; December 14th, 1863, the quoted price is from $44 to $48 or about twenty-five times greater than the price was in 1859. Now as publishers cannot do without printing ink they are compelled to pay a corresponding price for an article, only one ingredient of which bears this enormous increase.

We might enumerate many other articles used in the materials supplied to newspaper publishers, which have largely increased in cost within the last three years, and there is probably not one which has not advanced from fifty to one hundred per cent. Straw, which is the greater proportion of the material of the paper used in printing the Ledger, has advanced very largely. Soda ash, used in reducing the straw to pulp, has increased in price 50 per cent. Its price in July, 1859, was 2¾ cents per pound; now it is 3¾. Bleaching salts have gone up. The advanced price of lead adds to the cost of type. The additional wages of labor, mental and physical, in every department, increases very largely the daily expenses of a newspaper, to say nothing of the greater cost of machinery, rents, &c. All kinds of business have to bear the burthens of increased cost of materials, but it seems to us that newspaper publishing, from a variety of causes not within control has to bear more than its fair share.

Some time ago we called attention to the fact that, with the great increase in the price of rosin, it would probably pay some enterprising capitalist to try and manufacture it from the pine trees which grow in the Northern States, the resinous product of which must be equal in quality, if not in quantity, to the Southern pine. The difference, so enormous in the present compared with the former price, must pay for all the lack of skill and want of economy incident to labor turned in a new and untried direction. The Government would probably be doing a general ben fit if it were to employ the contrabands in North Carolina in producing turpentine and rosin upon the lands under the protection of our arms, and which now embrace nearly the whole coast of North Carolina and some 120 miles up the Neuse. Six-sevenths of the supply of rosin imported into England have been from the United States, showing how largely this product enters into the commerce of the world.

STAMP DUTIES ON MONEY RECEIPTS.—The Commissioner of Revenue believes that the system which levies stamp duties on documents and instruments of evidence may be judiciously extended. He proposes, therefore, to put a tax upon receipts for payment of money. Being of the utmost importance in all transactions, the necessity of making them valid evidence of payment would offer the strongest inducement to having them duly stamped. It is believed that, by subjecting them to one-half the duty now required on checks and sight drafts, a considerable revenue might be obtained without seriously burdening any interest. In England, the penny stamp on receipts is $2,200 000. A tax here of half that amount, he thinks, would be nearly as productive. The imposition of a tax of this kind will tend to make the cash system more popular.

LABOR WELL PAID.—There is no country in the world where labor is so well paid as in the United States at the present time. The demand for skilled labor is so great as in a measure to defeat the requirements of the armies in the field, and a competition arises between the employers and the Government for the possession of this labor. States and cities, to induce volunteering to raise their required quota, have to increase the amount of the bounties, and employers, to retain their men, have to add to the amount of their wages. These high prices and high bounties are, however, not only attracting large numbers of emigrants from Europe, but the British Provinces are sending quite a large portion of their laboring population to this country. In the army or in the workshop, they will find their services adequately paid.

FOOTE'S ENUNCIATION OF DAVIS.—In the Rebel Congress, on the 8th instant, Senator Foote, of Tennessee, denounced Jeff. Davis as the cause of all the disasters to the rebel arms, and charged him with exerting a malign influence wherever he has visited the troops, offering to prove that his rulership has almost ruined the country. Foote's denunciation would possess more significance if he were not always a busy, troublesome fellow, trying to make a sensation. There is no doubt Foote speaks true when he says Davis' rulership has almost ruined the country, but coming from him, the charge will not hurt Davis much.

LETTERS TO CONGRESSMEN.—Persons writing to Congressmen should pay their postage in advance, as Congressmen have only the right to frank a letter coming from themselves. The rule has been adopted, probably, not only to increase the Post-office revenue, but to prevent members of Congress being troubled with letters upon trifling subjects, but which policy-ness requires them to answer, taking up their time unnecessarily upon matters not connected with their proper official duties.

☞ There are now 40,000 negroes armed and in the service of the Government.

CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

UNITED STATES SENATE.

In the Senate, on *Tuesday*, Mr. Lane, of Kansas, introduced a bill to restrict the speculative traffic in gold, silver and exchange. It prohibits the sales of such articles, except at the regular banking house or broker's office, and prohibits purchases or operations upon a margin; prohibits sales, unless actually delivered and paid for; penalty on conviction, a fine of not less than one nor more than ten thousand dollars, and imprisonment for not less than twelve months, for each offence. Senator Sumner introduced a resolution to simplify, codify and arrange the statutes of the United States. Mr. Wilson, of Massachusetts, introduced a bill placing the volunteer officers of the navy on the same footing as those of the regular force. Mr. Anthony, of Rhode Island, introduced a resolution, tendering a vote of thanks to Gen. Burnside. The President's Message was referred. Mr. Davis, of Kentucky, called up his resolution on the exchange of prisoners, and proceeded to denounce the Administration in violent language, charging the party in power with seeking to prolong the war for political purposes. Trumbull cut Mr. Hale, of New Hampshire, who administered a severe rebuke to the gentleman from Kentucky, and eloquently defended the President and Congress from Davis' base imputations. Mr. Johnson, of Maryland, and Mr. Lane, of Indiana, also replied to Mr. Davis. A vote of thanks was passed to Captain John Rodgers, of the Navy, for distinguished services in the capture of the Atlanta.

In the Senate, on *Wednesday*, memorials were presented from a number of ladies asking for the emancipation of all slaves in the country. Mr. Saulsbury presented the memorial of a Delaware clergyman asking to be exempted from the draft. A memorial was received from two colored regiments asking for the same pay and bounties as are allowed to other troops. The joint resolution of thanks to Major General Grant was taken up and passed. Mr. Lane submitted a resolution of inquiry relative to the treatment of prisoners captured by the rebels from Kansas regiments. A bill amendatory of the act to equalize the grade of line officers in the navy was referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs. A bill was introduced to satisfy the claims of American citizens in the French spoliations. Mr. Sumner's resolution relative to the codification of the public laws was adopted, and the Senate adjourned.

In the Senate, on *Thursday*, Mr. Hale presented a resolution instructing the Judiciary Committee to inquire whether he (Mr. Hale) had been guilty of any conduct inconsistent with his duty as a Senator.

He desired, he said, to send to the Clerk's desk, to be read, a newspaper paragraph charging with perjury a Senator of New England, in securing the release, for the payment of a thousand dollars, of two prisoners of the old Capitol. From information which he had received from a Senator, he was led to believe that he himself was the person alluded to. He wished to make a statement of the facts on which the charge was probably founded. He had been called on to defend two individuals indicted before the District Attorney for violation of the war department. The first case was that of Doctor Bliss, Superintendent of the Armory Square Hospital. He, Mr. Hale, came to Washington, saw the Secretary of War, and the Attorney General, and expressed the opinion that Dr. Bliss ought to be allowed the liberty of the city. He was accordingly released, but the trial he was present as a friend and counsel, which resulted in a unanimous recommendation that the accused be restored to his place. In Boston shortly after, he met a friend, who said he had come to the conclusion to go to Canada, and he was anxious to have him, Mr. Hale, undertake the defence. Large sums of money were demanding as pay upon certain steamboats, and he had been retained to wait the issue of the trial. He (Mr. Hale) was offered two thousand dollars as a retainer. It was a large sum, but he was unwilling to accept it in such a case. In order to protect the rights of the people in objecting to the transaction of any professional business by Congressmen. He connected with two counsellors of Strafford county, New Hampshire, and asked them to examine carefully the law, and see if he had the right to undertake the case. Both answered promptly in writing in the affirmative, and one thought it only his right but his duty. He thereupon accepted the retainer and went to Washington. He met a gentleman of high social and professional reputation, Hon Reverdy Johnson, and asked to consult him in a personal matter, stating that a person charged with fraudulent practices had, through his friends desired him to conduct his defence. Johnson seemed surprised, evidently thinking him a fool in asking the question, when there any impropriety in undertaking it. Mr. Johnson replied, "Not the least objection under Heaven." Further, said he, "Is there anything indelicate in the undertaking" to which Mr. Johnson replied "Nothing is lighter in the world." He added that he (Johnson) had been doing it every week (and he didn't know but he said every day).

The Secretary of War had furnished the charges to Gen. Burnside in New York against Hunt, upon which he thought the trial should be commenced as soon as that of Belger was through. He (Mr. Hale) then asked the Secretary if the purpose of Janvier to implicate him in connection with the Belger case. The Secretary said he thought not; he sent the prisoner to New York on parole, with orders to report to the Provost Marshal's office in every forty-eight hours. He (Hale) then went to New York and saw Hunt and told him what his friends had done, and that he wished him to stand by him (Hunt) through the trial and not attempt to pay him one thousand dollars, which amount was subsequently paid. Such were the facts and all the facts. If there was any bribery or even indelicacy, it was not done inadvertently, but after deliberate and cautious deliberation.

Mr. Johnson of Md., remarked that he recollected distinctly that the Senator (Mr. Hale) called on him as stated, and had reported the conversation substantially as stated. In answer to his inquiry as to whether the Senator was precluded from the discharge of his duties as a Senator, by the fact of his being charged before a Court Martial with fraud, he (Mr. Johnson) said he saw no legal impediments in the way or even indelicacy. That he (Mr. Hale) had done was no doubt done, in part, in consequence of this opinion. Senators do not cease to be lawyers or doctors who called upon for professional services, either medical or legal. He saw no difficulty in complying, unless the services took the neglect of public duties. He had repeatedly acted himself upon this assumption. The only question that can arise is, whether there is any law prohibiting it. There was a law prohibiting Senators from prosecuting claims against the Government. He believed some law expressly covered cases pending before the Courts; but one has a right to be at any other Court in the United States. There was no provision of the law to prevent a lawyer from practicing in his profession. If a case of fraud is brought before a Military Court, a lawyer's services are desired, and he has no right because he is a member of Congress to refuse his services, any more than he would in a capital case in the civil courts.

Mr. Hale then submitted the following resolution, which was agreed to

Resolved, That the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to inquire whether John P. Hale, a member of this body, in connection with the case of Dr. Hunt charged with crime, by direction of the War Department, has been guilty of any conduct inconsistent with his duty as a Senator; and that they have power to send for persons and papers.

The Post-office Committee were instructed to inquire into the propriety of establishing as a post road the so-called military road from Lawrence to Fort Scott. Mr. Wade, of Ohio, submitted a resolution, which was agreed to, requesting the Secretary of the Navy to communicate to the Senate all official despatches and papers in the Navy Department referring to the active service in which any of the vessels of the United States navy may have been engaged, and especially in regard to the movements on the coasts of South Carolina, Georgia, and in the Gulf of Mexico. Mr. Sumner introduced a bill to promote the progress of the useful arts. Mr. Lane, of Kansas, introduced a bill to grant lands to citizens of his State as indemnity for losses caused by the rebellion. The Bounty and Back Pay bill was recommitted to the Committee on Military Affairs. The reports of A. D. Bache for the year ending November 1, 1863, and the report of Thomas Brown, Agent of the Treasury in California, were received. A communication was received from the President, with a letter he had received from representatives of the Freedmen's Associations of Boston, New York and Philadelphia. The Senate then adjourned.

In the Senate on *Friday*, the Chairman of the Military Committee reported back the Soldier's Bounty bill, with amendments; also, the bill amendatory of the Enrolment act, with amendments, one of them repealing the three hundred dollar commutation clause. A proposition to exempt clergymen from the draft was offered, and the amendments were ordered to be printed. Mr. Sumner's resolution for a new rule requiring Senators to take the oath of allegiance before entering upon their duties, was taken up, and an interesting debate ensued. Mr. Bayard, of Delaware, is the only Senator to be affected by the proposed rule. He regards the oath as unconstitutional, and declines submitting to it until the rule is enforced by a vote of the Senate. Accordingly, Mr. Saulsbury, Mr. Bayard's colleague, moved to refer the subject to the Judiciary Committee for their action and opinion. The Senate, however, by a vote of fifteen against twenty-six, refused to refer, preferring to decide the question without such reference. Pending the debate, the Senate held a brief executive session, and then adjourned till Monday.

The House was not in session on Saturday, having adjourned over till Monday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

In the House, on *Tuesday*, a message was received from the President, recommending that Captain John Rodgers, who captured the rebel ram Atlanta, receive a vote of thanks; this preliminary being necessary in order that he may be advanced another rank in the navy. One of the pretended members from Louisiana sent in his resignation. The President's Message was, by resolution of Mr. Stevens, of Pennsylvania, referred to the appropriate Committees, except that portion which relates to the duty of the United States to guarantee a Republican form of Government to every State, which, by resolution of Mr. Davis, of Maryland, was referred to a Select Committee of Nine, to be appointed by the Speaker. The Committees, whose business it is to examine into the Public Expenditures, were directed to proceed with their duties, and exercise the powers of Committees of Investigation. The resolution of Mr. Cox, of Ohio, calling for Gen. McClellan's report, was adopted.

In the House, on *Wednesday*, the Speaker announced the Select Committees on the Pacific Railroad, on Emigration, and on the Rebellious States. Mr. Rollins, of Missouri, introduced a resolution, the tenor of which may be judged from his final words that the war ought not to be continued for the purposes of conquest or subjugation. A motion to lay on the table was lost—yeas 57, nays 115—and the resolution was laid over. A resolution was passed to adjourn from the 23d inst. to January 5th. The Committee on Military Affairs were instructed to inquire into the alleged inhumanity of the rebels to our wounded soldiers in the field. The Committee on Roads and Canals were instructed to inquire into the expediency of constructing a canal around the rapids of the Mississippi river, near Keokuk, in Iowa. Mr. Spaulding, of Ohio, introduced a bill explanatory of the Enrollment act, so that the term volunteers in the last clause of the twelfth section shall be construed to mean sailors as well as soldiers. Mr. Long, of Missouri, introduced a resolution declaratory of the intent and meaning of the act relating to the habeas corpus, approved March 3, 1863. Mr. Kasson presented a resolution relative to the appointment of a committee on national and international coinage. The Committee on Claims were instructed to inquire into the causes of the delay in the adjustment and payment of the claims of deceased soldiers.

In the House, on *Thursday*, the Speaker presented the annual report of the Superintendent of the Coast Survey. A joint resolution was passed, tendering the thanks of Congress to Capt. John Rodgers, of the U. S Navy. Mr. Cox wished to amend, by adding the name of Admiral David D. Porter to the bill, but did not succeed in so doing A resolution was introduced to print ten thousand copies of the foreign correspondence accompanying the President's Message. Mr. Price introduced a resolution, instructing the Committee on Roads and Canals to inquire into the expediency of connecting the Hudson and Mississippi with the great lakes, by constructing such railroads. A motion to lay on the table was lost—yeas 67, nays 93. Mr. Rogers, of New Jersey, gave notice of a bill to increase the pay of privates and non-commissioned officers of the army. Also, a joint resolution to refund to the States, counties, townships, wards and corporations all the moneys paid by them for bounties to volunteers. Mr. Harrington, of Indiana, offered a preamble and series of resolutions—

That the principles of the Constitution in regard to personal liberty, and that the Thirty seventh Congress passed a law, authorizing the President to suspend the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus* throughout the United States, and further that the President has assumed to suspend it in the loyal States, subjecting the people to arbitrary arrests without due process of law, denying to them the right to a speedy trial, and causing them to languish in prison; and concluding with a series of resolutions denying the power of Congress to confer upon the President the right to suspend the writ of *habeas corpus* in the loyal States, and asserting that the assumption of the President in these respects is contrary to the progress of the age, despotic, and wholly subversive of the elementary principles on which the Government is based.

The series concludes with instructions to the Judiciary Committee to report a bill to protect the rights of persons in accordance with the foregoing declarations and the provisions of the Constitution.

A resolution was adopted calling on the Secretary of the Treasury for all documents showing the practical operation of the so-called Reciprocity Treaty which may be in his possession. Mr. Edgerton, of Ind., submitted the following:

Whereas, The proclamations of the President of January 1st, 1863, and December 8th, 1863, in relation to amnesty and pardon, propose certain conditions of pardon and amnesty to persons who have participated in the existing rebellion, as well as the conditions of the President to the re-establishment and reconstruction of a State government in the States to which the said proclamations apply, which, in the judgment of a large number of faithful citizens, have a tendency to give the rebellion the advantage of a change of front, and to encourage and not otherwise declining insurrection in the south and to prolong the war;

And whereas, this House cannot but regard with anxiety the unprecedented and extraordinary claims and assumption of a high prerogative in the President of the said proclamations—especially in view of the fact

THE DOLLAR NEWSPAPER.

PHILADELPHIA:

Wednesday Morning, December 23, 1863.

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Inserted at 25 cents per line per week, and as a medium for the sale of Real Estate, Stocks, &c., and for making known the various articles of Agricultural Machinery, where sold, &c., it is probably not surpassed by any other paper in the country.

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TO READERS AND WRITERS.

"LEILA GRAY," a little Sketch, is accepted.

"SATURDAY NIGHT" is still on hand.

"THE MEMORY OF THE FALLEN" is declined, and as the writer cannot spell correctly the commonest words of one and two syllables, we advise her, to be useful, to turn her attention, to the exclusion of poetry, more entirely to the darning of stockings or to any other domestic duty more agreeable.

A HOLIDAY PRESENT.

What more acceptable holiday present, what gift more likely to be more truly appreciated, remembered and prized than a YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION TO THE DOLLAR NEWSPAPER for the "absent loved ones" or the "old folks at home!" The next number, the day before New Year, begins a new volume.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

SANTA CLAUS, and his team and slay, freighted as of old, are coming, and right speedily will he be among us, his round, ruddy face genial and joyous as ever.

Ushered in by weeks of delightfully exciting anticipations and joyous preparation, day after to morrow will be welcomed throughout Christendom as the holiday of home and children. And if the fragrant pines and cedars that we meet all about us in the streets, borne homewards by happy fathers and mothers, there to fruit out into the most beautiful of trees to children—the marvel-bearing Christmas tree; or, if the gay store-windows—brimming over with exquisite toys and trinkets and confections, with much that blends the useful with the beautiful, be any fair indication, then the little folks hereabout are like to have a "merry Christmas" indeed. Revered old holiday, with what exuberant delight is it welcomed and what happiness it brings! How many charming spectacles will the eve of the sacred festival witness to-morrow night in millions of homes, as, according to various usages, Kris-kringle, or Santa Claus, or however else he may be called, prepares the joyful surprises and wonder-bags for the coming morrow. How the countless stockings, by innumerable little fingers will be converted into Fortunatus' purses for open-eyed, wondering childhood. What a hum will there be of cheerful voices plotting pleasures for infancy, what circles of happy industry, what group ngs of loving faces—all intent on making still more glad, young hearts that, as yet, have known no sorrow. And then, when the eve and the night time comes and the day have passed, and the glorious day has come, gilded with a brightness that no storm can dim and no time efface from memory, what a stir will there be among the little ones How they will rise with the dawn and cast wistful glances toward the mystic stocking, and how their eyes will dilate and their countenances glow with ecstasy as THE TREE assumes shape, when the first streaks of light reveal its wealth of treasures. Trinkets and toys and love-tokens will rain on ten thousand times ten thousand hearthstones, and the voice of universal childhood will ring out with the peals of laughter and rejoicing. Amid all this happiness and frolic let not the meral be lost sight of—

"*Peace on earth, and good-will to man*"

OUR NEW VOLUME

We commence on Wednesday of next week—the 30th of December—the beginning the 23d volume of the paper, which is for the year 1864, the last Wednesday in December 1863. Fifty-two weeks always make one year, though the year will not always end on the same day of the week, and as we print one paper in each week, the subscriber gets his year's subscription when he is served with fifty-two numbers. The new volume commences next week, and in it we shall begin an original novelette of more than usual power. The period, as well as the important events weekly transpiring, make it as favorable a time as any other at which to commence a year's subscription. Let every old subscriber procure one new one, and the "Dollar Newspaper" will have a list scarcely equalled by any family paper in the country. And we know a cheaper is not printed.

DO LIKEWISE.

An old reader of the "DOLLAR NEWSPAPER," in Warren County, New Jersey, last week, wrote us a note, saying:

"I resolved to get a new subscriber to the "Newspaper." By a little exertion I found one who has never taken the "Dollar Newspaper," whom I induced to take it. I herewith send you a dollar, for which send a copy to his address as here furnished," etc.

We have thousands of readers all over the country who could, with very little exertion, procure each an additional subscriber to the "Dollar Newspaper," thereby greatly benefiting such new subscriber and enhancing their own profit and pleasure, by bringing neighbors to think and talk upon kindred subjects. In many districts the largest clubs could be readily formed, thus securing the paper per year at the lowest possible price at which such an amount of reading weekly can be afforded. The "Dollar Newspaper" is the only family paper that has not adpaper" is beyond question the cheapest paper of its character in the world.

THE CHESAPEAKE PIRATES.

We have been carrying on this war very good-naturedly. We have allowed a set of rebels, who have not a single port which they can call their own, and out of which they can sail a ship of war—a body of men without a flag recognized by a single nation upon earth—we have allowed them to burn and destroy our vessels on the high seas, without the adjudication of any court, and not punished one of them, when captured, for piracy. We have had them attempt to seize our vessels of war, by force and fraud, in our own ports, and, when caught, they have simply been imprisoned in some of our forts as prisoners of war, instead of being convicted of any crime. Now the rebels have proceeded one step further. Disguising themselves as peaceful travellers, they embark on a peaceful merchant steamer, and, in the dead hour of the night, commit a murder and a series of attempts at murder, for which they had before prepared themselves very deliberately, and in that manner seize and carry off an unarmed vessel, after throwing overboard the body of the mate they had murdered. Men the most inoffensive, who were usefully pursuing the avocations of peace, were, by their own passengers, put ashore, robbed and destitute, a captain and the rest of his crew.

We will not discuss whether this is glorious or not; the only point is, whether it is *war;* and if not, what is it? It may have been directed by some officer acting under a commission from the Confederate States, or it may not. There is no question that, when the bloody deed was accomplished, it was claimed to be done in the name of the Confederate States Government, and that a letter was shown professing to give authority and orders for the execution of this very plot, from some superior rebel officer. But all this does not make it *war*, as distinct from piracy. While the fact that the agents of this diabolical deed came, and travelled, and paid their passage, in the disguise of peaceful travellers, within our lines would, with such a letter, have entitled them to be hung as spies, even without any overt act of piracy and murder.

When the first Napoleon believed or pretended to believe that William Pitt sanctioned some conspiracy to assassinate him in Paris, and sanctioned the departure of conspirators from England for that purpose, Fox, the English Statesman's great rival and opponent, still felt so indignant at the charge, that he replied, with more energy than politeness, to the Emperor, whose guest he was, "Your Majesty should clear your head of that nonsense;" and we believe this unaffected denial *did* clear Napoleon's head of any further suspicion. Yet, here we have a deliberate plan of assassination upon the high seas, of non-combatants, directly authorized and plotted by the regular officers apparently of the Confederacy, and the whole programme carried out to the letter. There is no language which can define murder and piracy upon the high seas, which will not include a case like this. After the Revolution of 1688, James II commissioned vessels against English commerce. English subjects acting upon under these, were defined by law as guilty of piracy, even although foreigners would only be regarded as committing an act of war. Perhaps it may be some hope that a similar destinction would be made in this case, which has induced the rebels to prefer employing foreigners on so many of these sorts of expeditions.

In the present case, however it can make the matter no better. These men did not commit an act of war. They entered our lines in disguise as spies; they made an attack upon those not engaged in war. At the dead hour of night they murdered an unarmed man, and should they escape to the British Provinces, wherever human justice goes, law should follow them, and they ought to be delivered up to be tried by the civil law, and if convicted be hanged as felons. We admit that all regular privateers of the enemy should be treated according to the laws of war." But each one of those sixteen men who seized that vessel, the Chesapeake, are, not only by our laws but those of the whole civilized world, assassins and pirates

THE NEWSPAPER FOR 1864.

In accordance with time-honored custom, as the Yankee Governors used to say in their Proclamations, we again take the liberty of reminding our friends, readers, the public and "the rest of mankind," that the beginning of a "New Year"—or, rather the beginning of a new volume, which, in the case of the "Newspaper," begins a little in advance of the great calendar holiday—is a good time to subscribe for a good newspaper; and also a good time to discontinue a bad one. It is a good time to form new resolutions and to shake off bad habits; a good time to break away from unprofitable companions and to form better and more ennobling associations

With the commencement of a new volume and a New Year, therefore, the "Newspaper" invites a "renewal of assurances" from its old subscribers and respectfully offers itself "on trial" to all "citizens and strangers." To those who have been with us from the beginning, in a weekly intercourse of twenty-one years, we have only to return thanks for the constancy of their friendship; although we may venture to express the belief, that "the obligation has been mutual." If any one of these desire to double our gratitude, they can easily do so by duplicating their subscriptions. The head and front of our soliciting hath this extent—no more. Of the future we have a word or two to say, but not in promises. All sensible minds must be deeply disgusted "about these days," on reading the wonderful things flamingly set forth in the thousand-and-one "Prospectuses," whose fulfilments at the end of the year can only remind one of the fabled mountain, which, after all its rumbling and thundering brought forth a *ridiculous mus.* We have no dazzling promises to make to our readers, no extraordinary lures to catch new subscribers. It is our intention to put the "Newspaper" in new and rather larger type, for its news reading, and to make it, in typographical appearance, all that a family newspaper, of large circulation, and containing the news up to its *date* of publication can well be. Editorially the "Newspaper" will continue all that it has ever been, and its Agricultural and Scientific Departments shall command the best efforts to make them interesting, instructive and profitable to the general reader. But as the main interest of the coming year will centre in the prosecution of the war to a speedy peace, the movements of our armies and the doings of our public men will be carefully and closely followed and noted. We intend that every family that takes and reads the "Newspaper," whether they take other papers or not, shall realize that it is worth, in literal and direct profit, twice the amount of its subscription price.

PROFESSIONAL COUNSEL.

Senator Hale has been accused by a N. York journal of having received a bribe to use his influence in procuring the release of two persons detained in prison by the War Department. He explains that he was acting in these cases professionally as a lawyer, having been applied to in that character by friends of the accused, and for which he received a large retaining fee, $2000. Before he undertook the cases he applied to eminent counsel, his friends, to know whether there was any impropriety in his acting as private counsel in such cases, and they agreed that there was not. In an ordinary case of prosecution before a court and jury, in which the Government itself was not the prosecutor, there might possibly be no impropriety in a Senator acting as private counsel, for in such a court Mr. Hale would have no advantage from his position as a United States Senator over any other attorney, and could not command any unusual fee for his services. But in a military court, as we believe the accusations against these prisoners were tried, constituted entirely by the Secretary of War himself, the case is essentially different. There it would be difficult for Mr. Hale to lay aside his Senatorial influence, even if he desired ever so much to do so; and it is clear that it was this influence that the accused persons were paying for so largely, and not the professional skill and reputation of the attorney. That he had scruples about the matter himself, and would not accept the position of private counsel, till fortified against his doubts by the opinion of other attorneys, proves that the impropriety was manifest to himself. If there are good reasons for private counsel for persons accused of political crimes and frauds against the Government. To say nothing of the influence which Senators must necessarily have with officers in other branches of the Government, political and often personal friends, the conduct of the Government officers in such cases may itself become the subject of future Congressional investigation and censure, and members of Congress should, in justice to all parties, keep their minds free from any bias which could possibly disturb or influence their judgment before investigation. Every Senator should endeavor to keep the character of his office pure, and the taint of corruption will necessarily attach to the officer, when the people see the public servant and the fee professional counsel so closely identified. In the case of Mr. Simmons, of Rhode Island, is yet in the public mind, and any practice which leads to such conclusions had better be avoided.

CABINET OFFICERS IN CONGRESS.

Mr. Pendleton has moved for the admission of Cabinet officers to the floor of Congress, with the privilege of discussing all questions which arise in their departments, but none other, and to have no vote. This is after the English practice, where every member of the Ministry is also a member of either House of Parliament and speaks and votes in that body. But in England the Ministry govern and not the Monarch and when their measures fail in Parliament, they all resign and a new Ministry takes their place. This establishes their responsibility directly to Parliament. In this country the Executive officer himself is responsible directly to the people for his measures, for the Cabinet are not known as independent officers. They are only able now to reach Congress through the President. Mr. Pendleton's proposition does not embrace the most popular feature of the English practice of making the members of the Cabinet responsible for the success or failure of their measures, which brings them frequently and directly before the people for popular judgment. He merely proposes to let them debate their own measures before Congress. The only advantage which will arise from this would be to the Cabinet officer would have hereafter to possess the talents that would command respect and attention in Congress. This would take a higher order of talent than is sometimes found in Cabinets, and to that extent the executive branch of the Government would be a gainer. But the tendancy will be to relieve the members of the Cabinet of responsibility to the President, and it might not be long before we should find Cabinet officers sustained by parties in Congress, through in opposition to the President. This would tend to dissension and a lack of harmony fatal to the vigor of Executive action. A Cabinet officer now, with a clear head and ready pen, can command not only attention from Congress for any measure that he wishes to enforce, but he has the press of the country through which he can appeal to the whole people, and thus influence their representatives to a greater extent than by oral discussion.

HOLIDAY GIFTS.

One of the pleasant indications that Christmas is not far off may be seen any fine day in Chesnut street, in the number of well dressed gentlemen peering into the shop windows, and evidently anxious to find out what would be most acceptable in the way of Christmas presents to their lady friends. Ill-natured people say that nothing in the way of dress or ornament ever comes amiss to a woman; but we imagine that, in these days of high prices, useful gifts will obtain the preference, and of all useful and seasonable gifts, after a year's subscription to the "DOLLAR NEWSPAPER" which is always in season, the most desirable are to be found in the large and varied stock of our friend THORNLEY, 311 Chesnut street. In these days of colds, catarrhs, consumptions, and such like complaints, wet, cold feet are to be avoided, and nothing so essentially insures them dry and comfortable as well-fitting gum shoes, of which Thornley presents an immense stock of every variety of pattern, for male or female, adults or children. His stock of fancy articles, as well of articles for domestic use, is large, well assorted, and at reasonable prices.

THE POSTAL MONEY ORDER SYSTEM.—The Postmaster General again urges the adoption of the money order system, which is now in successful operation in Europe. Probably nothing beter could be devised for the transmission of small sums of money safely than this money order system A person could purchase an order instead of sending money through the post-office, and consequently his letter would be safe from any dishonest depredator who might be tempted by the presence of the money to pilfer it. The system is so simple and convenient and so free from objections, that the only wonder is how a practical and economical people like ourselves can afford to do without it so long. Congress ought at once to take up the recommendation and give the people and the Post-office Department what they ask for, and which will facilitate so largely their transactions with each other.

LONGSTREET'S RETREAT.—Longstreet does not seem disposed to leave East Tennessee without a further trial of arms with Burnside's army, now under command of Foster, with whom he once before had an encounter near Suffolk and got worsted. After his unsuccessful assault on Knoxville, he retreated to Rogersville, some sixty miles distant, on the East Tennessee Railroad, losing three thousand prisoners and deserting his siege guns. There he turned and checked Gen. Shackelford's pursuit. According to the despatches this morning, he has again assumed the offensive, and advanced against the leading columns of the pursuit, and Gen. Wilcox has been compelled to fall back to Tazewell. This forward movement was to prevent him getting into Southwest Virginia, and the fear of being cut off by this advance through the mountains has probably induced him to turn upon it and drive it back,

NOTICES OF NEW WORKS.

Round the Block. D. Appleton & Co.: New York. Ashmead & Evans: Philadelphia.

This is an illustrated American novel, and is one of the handsomest issued in a long time. It is a work of remarkable original power. It is a novel, in the old sense of the word, with a logical, intricate, and curiosity-provoking plot; and not a series of essays and homilies. In this day, when it is the fashion to go out of America for themes and characters, a novel of this kind, strictly American ann keeping close to the great purpose of a novel, (which is to cheer and amuse, and not to make proselytes to any sect, or teach a new moral philosophy), will be warmly welcomed throughout the country. Novel readers who have been sighing for an original book, which would restore the novel to its true place in literature, will be impatient to see "Round the Block."

History of the Romans. By Charles Merrivale, B. D. New York: D. Appleton & Co. Philadelphia: Ashmead & Evans.

We have the second volume of this valuable standard work, which covers all that important history of the Romans under the Empire, from the time of Cæsar's seventh campaign in Gaul, B. C. 52, to the death of Cæsar, B. C. 44, the volume closing with some interesting reflections on Cæsar's assassination, his person, his character, and his abilities. In clearness, fairness and elegant diction, this history challenges comparison with the best of the histories of the event'ul period of which it treats.

THE LAWYER'S SECRET, by Miss M E. Braddon, has been issued in cheap form by T. B. Peterson & Brothers. Philadelphia, and is said to be one of her best stories. Miss B., it will be remembered, is the authoress of "Aurora Floyd," "Lady Audley's Secret," etc.

THE OLD FRANKLIN ALMANAC, for 1864, has been sent us by A. Winch, 505 Chesnut street. This, in many respects, is among the most valuable of annuals. It contains, exclusive of the actual astronomical calculations, a great variety of statistics, chronological tables, and useful matter, never before introduced into works of this kind, which, in every household will be found of value greatly exceeding its cost.

THE ROYAL FIRE AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, Liverpool, with branches in all the great cities of the world, has issued its annual almanac for 1864, containing a vast amount of information on insurance and kindred subjects. The American Supplement contains a list of the Licenses and Stamp Duties as amended March 3, 1863. The volume may be had at the agency in this city, Walnut street, and as a specimen of printing in colors challenges admiration.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

An Italian Opera Company, under Maretzek, terminated, on Saturday evening, at the Academy of Music, an engagement of three or four week, with fair success. The company was a very full one, and numbered in it several superior artists. The Opera was succeeded, on Monday evening, of this week, with the *Ravel, Martinetti and Marzetti Familly*, under the lessee-ship of Mr. George Hood. The merits of this company, in their line of performances, are well known, and will, no doubt, make the Academy of Music, during the holiday season, the great centre of attraction. Pantomime, ballet and the right-rope appeal to all, and when the names of the artists are heard—Marietta Zanfretta, the Marzettis and Martinettis, the Phillips and others of the company, we can scarcely doubt that the Academy will be crammed to repletion every evening. A complete change of performance is to take place each evening. On Christmas-day there will be a day performance at two o'clock. Admission fifty and twenty five cents.

At the *New Chesnut Street Theatre*, Mr. Forrest will continue his engagement of four nights a week through the holidays. On the off night's, the talented artiste, Miss Jean Hosmer will perform, commencing on Wednesday evening of this week, as "Juliet." At the *Walnut Street Theatre*, Mr. J. S. Clarke will continue his round of comic characters every evening this week, and performs on Christmas afternoon. At the *Arch Street Theatre*, this week, the reign of comedy is inaugurated by the engagement of Frank Drew, a very capital actor and great favorite in this city. An afternoon performance will be given on Christmas-day. The *Eleventh Street Opera House*, so successfully managed by Carncross and Dixey, will, no doubt, be more than ever packed during the holiday season. Extra attraction is presented, including the Ethiopian extravaganza, "A New Year Calls," "Grand Skating Carnival," etc., etc. On Christmas day there will be an afternoon performance. On Christmas-day. *Signor Blitz* the ever famous ventriloquist and magician, will give an evening and two day performances, besides performing every evening and Wednesday and Saturday afternoons. It will not be Blitz's fault if all the little ones do not see and enjoy his performances during the holidays—he means to give them full opportunity in the great number of his exhibitions.

NEWS AND NOTINGS OF THE WEEK.

☞ Washington has three theatres and one "dramatic hall" in full operation.

☞ Wilkie Collins is at Naples, ill, and incapable of work.

☞ Sir Bulwer Lytton is reported to be engaged on a new drama for Mr. Fechter.

☞ A clergyman in Carlisle recently preached a sermon to children in words of one syllable.

☞ The last fashionable production in London in the book line is the "perfumed almanac."

☞ Generally the greatest humbug is he who talks of humbugs the most glibly.

☞ Show can easily be purchased; but happiness is always a home-made article.

☞ The best coal in London is sold at $6 per chaldron. A splendid Coventry poplin dress costs in the same city $10.

☞ The London "Critic" says that Madame Vera-Lorini is more remarkable as an actress than a singer.

☞ By means of the spectrum analysis, a new metal has been discovered called *indium*, which is distinguished by a very brilliant blue ray.

☞ Whisky in Richmond is a dollar and fifty cents a drink. A man is as proud of being drunk there as ever an old fellow was of having the gout.

☞ The fermentation of cider may be checked at any point desired by adding one fourth of an ounce of *sulphate of lime* to the gallon.

☞ Some one calls the high crown hat, which has been so long in fashion, the "cylinder of civilization."

☞ Mrs. Lincoln's own mother is dead. It was her step-mother who recently visited a rebel General.

☞ In Boston, on Thanksgiving night, a young lady died in a ball-room, falling to the floor just a the end of a dance.

☞ Napoleon said that "bayonets think." Yes, and few thinkers have so much keenness, point and penetration as they.

☞ England and France flirted a long time with the rebellion. Both seem at last to have discarded their abject and pertinacious wooer.

☞ War meetings are holding in the larger towns of Kentucky to devise some means by which the draft may be avoided.

☞ The Missouri Senate has passed a bill repealing the old State law which prohibited whites from teaching slaves to read or write.

☞ Ice is getting to be a universal remedy. It is now said that it not only cures but prevents sea sickness. The best remedy that we know of for this disagreeable complaint is dry land.

☞ It is stated in the best informed professional circles that the honor of attending the Princess of Wales, in March next, will probably devolve on Dr Arthur Fane.

☞ Chocolate, the flour of the cocoanut, was first introduced in England from Mexico in 1520, and soon became a favorite beverage in the London coffee-houses.

☞ The prevalent idea that all wounds of the heart are necessarily and immediately fatal, is quite erroneous. Many instances are on record of individuals surviving wounds of the heart for many days.

☞ The rebels are expelling all the dogs from the Confederacy; but they will soon follow them. They are bound to go to the dogs, says the Louisville Journal.

☞ A feature of the Boston Sanitary Fair will be a daily newspaper, which is to be made brilliant, both in prose and verse, by the best talent of the city.

☞ A novel wedding took place at Newburyport, Mass., some days since. All the parties, grooms-men as well as bridesmaids, were deaf and dumb. Congratulations were presented on the finger-tips of those present.

☞ The young men and maidens of St. Paul, Minnesota, are enjoying the luxury of skating on a lake in that town known by the romantic name of "Lake Como."

☞ Sometimes a girl says no to an offer, when it is as plain as the nose on her face that she means yes The best way to judge whether she is in earnest or not, is to look straight into her eyes, and never mind her *noes*.

☞ An English judge being asked what contributed most to success at the bar, replied, "some succeed by great talent, some by a miracle, but the majority by commencing without a shilling."

☞ The Troy Whig says: "A gentleman of that city who took the occasion on last Sabbath to doctor some cider, so as to keep it sweet, was taken to task by his good wife for laboring on the Sabbath. His reply was that no good Christian ought to find fault with his work on that day, as he had been doing his best to prevent the cider from working."

☞ There is said to be in Washington much speculation over a rumor that Chief Justice Taney has resigned and Governor Chase been appointed in his place. Some go so far as to say that Mr. Hooper of Boston has been offered the Treasury portfolio; but the friends of Governor Chase say that he will not resign.

☞ Mrs. Somerville, now in her eighty-third year, has completed a work on the solar spectrum, heat, electricity, the correlation of forces, and the constitution of minute atoms, animal, vegetable and mineral. This lady, in physics and astronomy, is probably the most learned woman of the age.

GOOD PLAN.—The Provost Marshals in the several districts of New York city have arranged with the County Recruiting Committee to have the acceptance of the recruit and the payment of the bounty money done at the same time. By thus placing the money actually in the hands of the new made soldier at the time when he is mustered into service it is believed that enlistments will be encouraged, while each recruit will be protected against the extortion of bounty brokers,

THE LATEST NEWS.

BY TELEGRAPH.

Recapture of the Steamer Chesapeake from the Pirates.

THE PIRATICAL CREW ALL ESCAPED BUT THREE.

HALIFAX, Dec. 17.—The U S. steamer Ella and Annie captured the steamer Chesapeake, this morning, in Sambro Harbor. All but three of the crew escaped.

Soon after the capture, the Dacotah came up, and ordered them into Halifax, and all three of the vessels are now here.

HALIFAX, Dec. 17.—The movements of the Chesapeake, since her first appearance at Sherburne, have been narrowly watched by the United States officials and the American citizens of the Province. Her whereabouts were daily known, but the absence of the gunboats caused a delay in her capture. On Tuesday, the Ella and Fannie, Lieut. Comdr. Nickels, arrived here for coals, and was immediately supplied at the Cunard's wharf. She received information of the pirate, and at 11½ o'clock, P M., steamed for her, arriving at her rendezvous at three o'clock, P. M., but the Chesapeake left at nine o'clock, A. M., of Wednesday, thereby evading her pursuers.

The Ella and Annie immediately turned back and steamed for Lunenburg for orders arriving in the evening. In the meantime the officials scouring in formation of the pirates being at Sambro, notified Lieutenant Nickels, who immediately steamed for her, determined to take her, and at daylight on Thursday accomplished it.

The crew offered no resistance, but at the sight of their pursuers immediately fled to the woods leaving a sumptuously prepared breakfast.

The Chesapeake was immediately taken in tow, and Lieut. Nickels started for an American port.

The Dacotah soon came up and ordered Lieut. Nickels and his prize into Halifax, to await the sanction of the act by the government.

The vessels arrived at 4 o'clock P. M.

Three of the original crew were captured. The others were shipped in Nova Scotia.

The Niagara left Publico this morning, bound East.

It is reported that the officials who were despatched by the authorities to arrest the pirate Braine, to day, were resisted.

Mob Law in Halifax.

RESCUE OF THE CHESAPEAKE PIRATES FROM THE CIVIL AUTHORITIES.

HALIFAX, Dec. 19, 10 o'clock, P. M.—At 10 o'clock this afternoon, the steamer Chesapeake and prisoners on board of her were delivered over to the Government authorities.

Upon the arrival of the boat containing the prisoners at the Queen's wharf, the excitement became intense. The prisoners were seized by a boat's crew in the slip and hurried off by the crowd in attendance.

Upon the Government officers attempting to arrest the prisoners under a warrant, they were seized and held by prominent citizens, and rendered powerless to perform their duty. The mob finally succeeded in getting the pirates off in a small boat, which forthwith moved down the bay.

The affair causes the greatest excitement throughout the city. What course the authorities will pursue in the matter it is difficult to say.

The pirates are now at liberty, and scattered throughout the province.

The U S. vessels are preparing to leave. Some will take their departure to-night, and probably all of them will leave before Monday.

HALIFAX, Dec. 19.—The following is the statement of 1st Engineer Johnson, of the crew of the steamer Chesapeake, after her capture:—"After we left St. John, the first port we entered was Shelburne, where we arrived on Thursday night. Here we took in bunkers of coal and some wood. On the next morning we left for Lahere river. Seeing a steamer off the mouth of the river, we concluded the vessel as best we could, and secured the river on Friday night. We laid low in this point until Tuesday night, discharging a part of the cargo, for which we received a thousand dollars We took in another three cents per pound in the flour at $3 per barrel, and other articles at proportionate prices We left the river at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, laying to at its mouth all night, and loading a schooner with the goods which we had not disposed of.

"On the morning of Wednesday we steamed for St. Mary's Bay, about ninety miles east of Halifax About nine o'clock on the following morning we saw a steamer, and we immediately concealed the vessel by hugging the shore. When the steamer disappeared we started again. We arrived off Sambro without meeting with any further trouble, and were boarded by a pilot named Flynn, who took the vessel into Sambro harbor.

"Capt. Locke being now satisfied that there were not coals enough aboard to complete the voyage, concluded to anchor the vessel, and he did so a two o'clock in the afternoon. In the meantime he started for Halifax to procure coals and engineers for the vessel. He told me (Johnson) that, as soon as he obtained new engineers, he intended to release me, and I told him that I would not on any account remain with the vessel any longer.

"The captain returned at about 2 o'clock on the following morning, having been successful in his expedition. A schooner came with him at about six o'clock on the same morning. The Pilot, Flynn, informed the captain that the United States gunboats had entered the harbor. The captain to satisfy himself that his statement was correct ordered me (Johnson) to scuttle the vessel. I replied that I could not do it. The captain the hastily secured what plunder he could and he and his officers and a part of the crew left in the boats just as the Ellen & Annie spreared in sight."

The Steamer Chesapeake.

WASHINGTON, Dec 19.—The following despatch was received here late last night:

HALIFAX, Dec 18.—Hon. Gideon Welles—The steamer Chesapeake has been transferred to the British authorities. I will return home at once.

A. G. CLAY, Commander.

The Obstructions in Charleston Harbor Swept Away.

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—By the Arago it is stated that the recent heavy gale swept away nearly all of the rebel obstructions, and their remnants line the shore.

The entrance to the harbor is believe I to be clear, and it is supposed that our navy will take due advantage of it.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 19.—The Sun's correspondent of the American furnishes the following:

"CHARLESTON, Dec 18.—General Gilmore again shelled Charleston on Thursday, throwing a number of shells into different parts of the city, and it is believed doing much damage. All the rebel batteries opened, and a heavy bombardment ensued for several hours.

"The storm is washing away the rebel obstructions. Yesterday a large number of heavy timbers, bolted together with iron, came down with the tide. They were secured and towed on shore by our tugs. The amount of iron so lost is large, and it is believed that the obstructions must be seriously damaged. There is no other news of importance."

From Tennessee.

LONGSTREET RETURNED TO BULL GAP—THE CEMETERY AT CHATTANOOGA.

CINCINNATI, Dec 21.—The Commercial's despatches, dated Knoxville, Dec. 19th, represent everything as quiet in that direction.

Longstreet has returned to Bull Gap, for the supposed purpose of entering in the Watauga Valley, or with the view of moving into North Carolina.

The railroad is in operation South of Knoxville to Loudon, and the river is open to navigation from Loudon to Chattanooga. General Foster has established his head quarters at Knoxville.

The grounds for the U. S. Cemetery at Chattanooga have been selected, and the position chosen for a national monument. Over 2000 are now carrying in the hospitals and buried in the town are being disinterred and placed in the cemetery.

There is nothing new in military affairs in Chattanooga.

Operations in the Shenandoah Valley.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 20.—A despatch to the Baltimore American from Harper's Ferry, dated last evening, says:

Just as the mail is about to close, a detachment of the 22d Pennsylvania Cavalry has brought in Col. Carter, of the 1st Virginia rebel Cavalry, and six other prisoners, who were captured yesterday at Upperville, Fauquier county.

Messengers from Gen Sullivan's cavalry, beyond Winchester, report that Gen Averill and his cavalry were in Staunton yesterday, and tore up the railroad track for six miles, between that place and Gordonsville. This is very important if true, but it needs confirmation.

Rebel Reports from Charleston.

THE IRONSIDES AND THREE MONITORS ATTEMPT TO PASS THE OBSTRUCTIONS—THE IRONSIDES AND TWO MONITORS DISABLED

RICHMOND PAPERS, Dec. 21.—The Richmond papers of the 19th. contain the following despatch from Charleston:

"The Ironsides and three Monitors, while attempting to pass the obstructions in the harbor, became entangled.

"The Ironsides will probably have to be abandoned. Two of the Monitors were also badly disabled."

Railroad Accident and Loss of Life.

BOSTON, Dec. 19.—Col. Albert M. Brammell, of the 11th Massachusetts regiment, and wife, were instantly killed at the cross'ng near Chelsea station, this forenoon, by the Eastern railroad train coming into collision with their carriage. Col. Brammell arrived home on Monday on a brief furlough. He was a gallant and meritorious officer. The first report was that Col. Blaisdell was the gentleman who was killed,

Sinking of an Ohio Steamer.

WHEELING, Dec. 19.—The steamer Prima Donna struck a sunken coal barge, when eighteen miles below here, this morning, and sunk to her cabin floor. There were no lives lost by the accident.

The Canadian Abduction Case.

MONTREAL, C. W., Dec. 17.—A man, named Lawkins, who was implicated in the abduction of Redpath, has been fined $100 and sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

[Correspondence of the Dollar Newspaper.]

THINGS IN NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21, 1863

The Fortress Monroe despatch, announcing that the Ironsides and three of the monitors have got into Charleston harbor, created a feeling of depression this afternoon, and had the effect, as you will see to send up the price of gold. Inasmuch as the authority for the statement is rebel newspaper, however, the hope is expressed that, when we come to know the whole truth about it, it will not have so bad a look.

In August last, Christopher Forey, printer, brought a suit to recover a debt from Omar Kinsley, better known as Ella Zerra, the circus performer. An attachment was granted on the ground that defendant was a non-resident of the State. In the course of the proceedings it was shown that the defendant was married, and that when not travelling professionally he resided in Brooklyn, Kings county. Saturday a motion was made to discharge the attachment on that ground, and the motion was granted.

In the General Sessions Saturday, a young German, named Frederick Munter, was sentenced to the State Prison for life, having been convicted of manslaughter in the first degree, for taking the life of a young woman, named Catharine Harterung, for refusing to marry him.

The liquor dealers, you will see, have "struck." On and after Monday, all liquors at retail are to be ten cents per glass. The three cent "pizen" is also abolished at the small groggeries, and can only be had hereafter for six cents. It is some consolation, however, the old topers say, that there is to be no advance in the prices of turpentine, camphine, alcohol, benzine, &c.

I asked the Provost Marshal what was the prospect of the city raising its quota by the 5th of January, so as thereby to avoid the necessity of a draft. He replied something as follows:

"Why you see there is a great deal said in the newspapers every day about the large number of men who are volunteering, but really, sir, we don't see them. It's all great cry and little wool. The average enlistments scarcely reach 120 per day; within the few days past, indeed, they have been rather under than above that figure, and so the prospect at present is that the 5th of January will find us many hundreds of men short, and these will have to be raised by draft. It is true, the bounty offered by the city (some $770) is high, but it has got to be higher if the men are to be forthcoming then, and that is just the whole truth in a nut shell. Over in Jersey, they are paying higher bounties than that even. Not unfrequently $900 is paid and, as long as that is the case, men will prefer to enlist there."

I regret to hear that a well-known Major General, connected with the Cavalry service of the Army of the Potomac, has lately exhibited symptoms of aberration of mind so marked as to induce his family to apply for a commission to look after his property, and that the application will probably be, if it has not already been, granted by a New Jersey Court. The recent death of his wife is represented to have been the superinducing cause of his mental affliction.

The workingmen's strikes are still in progress, but in so quiet a way, that they have nearly ceased to attract public attention. The carpenters, masons, tailors, painters, appear in most cases to have succeeded in obtaining from their employers the increased wages demanded—but there are others—among the rest the machinists, who have not been so fortunate. Efforts are constantly making by committees representing both the employer and employed, to reconcile or compromise their difficulties, but thus far with but little success.

The Washington despatches, intimating that the Conscription Bill will be amended, by striking out the commutation clause, is creating some stir in "able-bodied circles." The prevailing sentiment on the subject, however, would seem to be that it is better to have no commutation at all, than to raise it to $500. What effect this new movement is to have on recruiting remains to be seen. Some think it will be unfavorable, as many persons who would be enlisting now, it is thought, are holding back in the expectation of getting $1000 or $1200 as substitutes, which is better than the $710 offered by the city.

In the Court of Oyer and Terminer to-day, a man named Wm Cruise, was placed on trial, charged with participating in the anti-draft and anti-negro riots of July last. The court-room was crowded to excess the spectators being principally Fifth Ward roughs. The prisoner is the keeper of a groggery in Thomas street. The testimony disclosed nothing of interest to the public not already known. The case will be continued to-morrow.

The Street Commissioner sent in a communication to the Board of Aldermen, this afternoon, stating that the damage to the North River piers by the late fire, would amount to $71 41].

The Comptroller also informed the "Fathers" that he has disbursed rewards of $80 000 to the families of volunteers during the month of August. More money is called for to enable him to continue the good work.

The jury in the Superior Court, this morning, returned a verdict of $10,000 in favor of Henry C. Watson, the musical critic of Frank Leslie's Magazine, against Barney Williams, the actor, whom Watson sued for an assault and battery, under circumstances with which the public are already familiar. Defendant's counsel, however has given notice of an appeal; and so the end is not yet.

The City Inspector's bill of mortality for last week exhibits a heavy increase. The whole number of deaths was 603 nearly one hundred in excess of those for the previous week; the result principally of diseases of the lungs and throat. Nearly one-half were children under five years of age. In Brooklyn, there were 230 deaths, a decrease of 15, compared with the previous week.

The German Opera, at the Academy, gives its last performance this evening. The season has been anything but a magnificent success—not for the lack of excellence on the part of the singers or the management, but for lack of appreciation or taste on the part of the public.

The remains of the late Col O'Meara, who was killed at the battle of Missionary Ridge, were interred to-day in Calvary Cemetery. The Common Council has offered to pay the usual funeral honors in respect to his memory, but his family saw fit to decline.

The machinists' strike continues to attract much attention. It is officially stated that out of 35 shops, but 16

SONG OF THE OLD YEAR.

BY ELIZA COOK.

Oh, I have been running a gallant career
On a courser that needeth no bridle or goad;
But he'll soon change his rider and leave the Old Year
Lying low in the dust on Eternity's road.
Wide has my track been and rapid my haste,
But whoever takes heed of my journey will find,
That in marble built city and camel-trod waste,
I have left a fair set of bold waymarks behind.
I have choked up the earth with the sturdy elm board,
I have chequered the air with the bannners of strife,
Fresh are the tombstones I have scattered abroad,
Bright are the young eyes I've opened to life;
My race is nigh o'er on Time's iron-gray steed,
Yet he'll still gallop on as he gallops with me,
And you'll see that his mane will be flying again
Ere you've buried me under the green holly tree.

If ye tell of the sadness and evil I've wrought
Yet remember the share of "good works" I have done;
Ye should balance the clouds and the canke I've brought
With the grapes I have sent to be crushed in the sun.
If I've added gray threads to the worldly wise heads,
I have deepened the chesnut of infancy's curl;
If I've cherished the germ of the shipwrecking worm,
I have quickened the growth of the crown-studding pearl.
If I've lengthened the yew till it brushes the pall,
I have bid the sweet shoots of the orange bloom swell;
If I've thickened the moss on the ruin's rank wall,
I have strengthened the love-bower tendrils as well.
Then speak of me fairly, and give the Old Year
A light-hearted parting in kindness and glee,
Chaunt a roundelay over my laurel-decked bier,
And bury me under the green holly tree.

Ye have murmured of late at my gloom-laden hours,
And look on my pale wrinkled face with a frown;
But ye laughed when I spangled your pathway with flowers
And flung the red clover and yellow corn down.
Ye shrink from my breathing, and say that I bite—
So I do—but forget not how friendly we were
When I fann'd your warm cheek in the soft summer light,
And just toyed with the rose in the merry girl's hair.
Fill the goblet and drink as my wailing tones sink,
Let the wassail-bowl dip and the revel shout rise—
But a word in your ear from the passing Old Year,
'Tis the last time he'll teach ye—"be merry and wise!"
Then sing, while I am sighing my latest farewell,
The log-lighted ingle my death pyre shall be;
Dance, dance while I'm dying, blend carol and bell,
And bury me under the green holly tree.

THE FARMER.

[☞ We will send the "Dollar Newspaper" gratuitously, for one year, to all who will become occasional contributors to this department of the paper. At the expiration of the year it will be discontinued, unless our attention is called to a renewal.]

[Written for the Dollar Newspaper—Philada.]

SOUTHERN GRASSES AND FORAGE PLANTS

RUSH GRASS.

The Rush Grass grows as high as a man's shoulders on our Southwestern river bottoms and low grounds, and so close or thick that it is difficult for a person to make his way through it. But it is often of lower and thinner growth elsewhere. Flint, in his history of the Western States, says that nothing can exceed the brilliancy of its verdure, especially when seen in winter, in contrast with the universal brown of nature that surrounds it—and that it forms a favorite and invaluable food or pasture-range for such horses and cattle as descend the Mississippi river, who devour it with more greediness than they do the young cane or reed.

PEAVINE GRASS.

The Peavine Grass grows vild in the rich forest lands, and forms a rich and almost universal forest range of pasturage for cattle. But when it is once eaten down closely it is done, gone, as it very seldom renews itself, and of course disappears rapidly in the vicinity of a dense population. It is a small fibrous vine and receives its name from the resemblance which its leaves and flowers bear to those of our garden or cultivated field peas.

COW PEA.

The Cow Pea of the South is altogether different from any other peas grown in the gardens of our Middle and Northern States. It is supposed to belong to the family of the clovers, and is known by the general name of Cow Pea, for it consists of *many varieties* of peas of different sizes, shapes, colors and blossoms—their colors being either white, yellow, greenish, gray, red, purplish-red, black, spotted, &c. The white peas are preferred for table use, and the red and black for the field and cattle and as a manurial crop, as they are the hardiest, being hardy enough to stand in the fields all winter without rotting, and thus affords an excellent pasturage for cattle and hogs through the winter season and down into late spring. The Cow Pea serves the same purposes for pasture, hay and a green manure in our Southern States that Red Clover does here in our Middle and Northern States. For this pea crop, in its green state, forms a rich and luxuriant pasturage for all kinds of herb-eating animals, and is equally good as a hay crop, if carefully dried, and when plowed down it makes an excellent manure to reinvigorate and improve old and worn out lands. The Cow Pea should be sown as early in the spring as the season will permit. It is sometimes sown by itself, so as to cover and occupy the ground alone. But it is more commonly sown or planted in between the standing rows of the growing Indian corn, at the last working or cultivating of the corn. And when grown among corn it answers a four-fold purpose, to wit: 1st, it soon shades and protects the growing corn plants from the withering influences of the sun's heat; 2d, it keeps the soil from washing away by heavy rains; 3d, it affords a fine pasturage for all the animals of the farm, and, 4th, the litter or refuse of its vine and leaves that are left on the ground, make, when plowed down, a good manure for the soil. The Cow Pea is either sown broadcast, like wheat, or planted like Indian corn. And when sown broadcast the seeds are harrowed in, and the ground, if very loose and porous, is rolled to make the soil more compact and firm. The quantity of seed sown or planted ranges from one to four bushels per acre. And the yield of peas, when sown or planted among the growing corn, ranges from three to fifteen bushels per acre, and from fifteen to 40 bushel per acre when sown as a separate and distinct crop. Some regard *late* sowing, say from the 1st to the middle of June, as the best time, as the crop is then sure to escape the ravages of the pea bug which is so destructive of all the earlier sown pea crops. For peas sown early and cultivated extensively for a few years in succession, become so infested with bugs that planters are compelled to abandon the raising of peas for some successive seasons. The Cow Peas are harvested in September and October, and generally bring about the same price per bushel in the South that Indian corn does. They are more easily cultivated than corn, but are more laborious to harvest, as, if you want to save the peas, you must gather and shell them by hand, which is a slow and tedious business. The Cow Pea crop, unless when intended solely for manure, is, for the most part, eaten off the ground by cows, hogs, sheep and horses, none of the peas being gathered excepting what may be necessary for table use or as seed for a future crop. And all animals so fed or pastured, will fatten very quickly. But the Cow Pea crop is becoming unpopular among many planters of the South, from the fact that it often kills animals that feed on it in a green state. But this is often, if not always the result of their eating too much of this green food, and so it may be prevented by proper care and attention. For planters who have used the Cow Pea crop as a green food for cattle for many years, without losing a single animal by it, say that the animal deaths complained of arose from the cattle, hogs, horses and mules having been turned into the pea fields hungry, and that if they are *first fed with salt in their feed and watered before* they are turned in there, there will be no danger, however long they may remain in the field, provided they have a frequent supply of salt and plenty of good water to drink. (See U. S. Ag. Rep., 1847, p. 390; 1848, p. 476, 495; 1849, p. 135, 138, 143, 145, 148, 158, 163. 169 and 172; 1850, p. 195, 2 4, 286, 369, 401, 446; 1851, p. 35, 376 323, 337, 354; 18.2, p. 62, 71, 73, 75, 81, 281; 1853, p. 225.)

IVERSON GRASS.

This grass is called so after B. V. Iverson, of Georgia, who introduced it into notice some ten or twelve years ago. He gave us a most magnificent description of this grass in the Patent Office Agricultural Report for 1853, (see p. 212) And those leading Virginians and Marylanders who received its seeds from him for trial in their own States were equally enthusiastic in its praises. Indeed, if the one half of what he and they told us about it be true, it ought to be considered as being by far the most valuable grass in America, if not in the world. (See U. S. Ag. Rep., 1854, p. 191 and 193.) But since that we have heard so little about it that I am inclined to think it has failed to be permanently valuable, and so is only another of the numerous *humbugs* of our day.

Now let some other person take up his pen and give us an account of such other Southern grasses and fodder plants as are deserving of notice. And I would be pleased to have some one tell us how the various grasses and fodder seed-plants introduced into our country some years ago by our United States Patent Office have succeeded or failed, as the case may be, so that our knowledge upon these points may be as satisfactory as possible.

Milton, Pa., 1863. A PENNSYLVANIAN.

[Written for the Dollar Newspaper—Philada.]

FARMERS' WIVES.

Amongst all the contributions to the agricultural department of the Newspaper, I find full directions for the young farmer in the choice and management of cows and sheep and pigs, to make them profitable, and how to train and break their colts and steers to make them useful to their owners, but never a word on the education and training of that most indispensable of acquisitions to a farmer, a wife, as she fills the capacity of manager of the house; for it is admitted beyond a peradventure that a man's success in life depends one half or more on the economy and management of affairs in the house. In reading the contributions of the "Farmer's Daughter," I was led to reflect how remiss parents generally are in training their daughters for the positions they are destined to fill as wives and mothers. For it is a notorious fact, that not more than one in ten assumes the responsibilities of housekeeping with any but an abstract knowledge of domestic economy, when it is so essential to their immediate necessity; for, as to the duties of a wife, their name is legion. And often, at setting out in life, the sum of their knowledge is confined to arranging and dusting the parlors, setting the table for company, and perhaps make plain bread. Few daughters are able to send as long and valuable a list of original receipts as that of our thrifty farmer's. Her experience is worth thousands in coin to any man she may choose, for what one can do so well, they are apt to like to do, and no man need fear to come early to dinner, or ask to have his coat repaired, for fear of casting a cloud on his wife's brow, and cause her to be out of sorts for the ensuing day. If girls were taught carefully and early the old household maxim, "A place for everything and everything in its place,' the habits which would follow its observance would prevent so many young husbands, after first the novelty of housekeeping is over, to exclaim, "Alas! that one fault should have power to neutralize so many good qualities, and so dross the polish of a fashionable education!" Perhaps it would not be amiss to suggest a few hints how to avoid the almost universal evil by proposing a few resolutions. First, that any mother who neglects to teach her girls early that first law of Heaven, order in the arrangement of her own set of duties, neglects the first principles of usefulness to herself and comfort to those around her, and is herself a slattern. Second—Resolved, that any mothers, who, by their insinuations and manner of education, give their daughters impressions that their chief end of existence is to get married, should be bound to provide and board a practical housekeeper for the victimized husband, till such time as the wife shall, by her tuition, have acquired a practical knowledge of domestic economy.

[Written for the Dollar Newspaper—Philada.]

OLD OR NEW CORN FOR FATTENING HOGS.

I have lately read an inquiry in some agricultural paper, as to which is best for fattening hogs, old corn or new corn. My doctrine is that new corn is generally better than old, unless the old corn is ground into meal or softened by steeping or boiling. The new corn being soft, seems to be preferred by the hogs, and I think it has more nutritive properties. Old corn, when ground into meal, and fed to the hogs in form of slop, or if boiled or steamed, and thus fed to the hogs, is probably equally nutritive with the new corn for hogs. But if other things are fed to hogs, such as boiled potatoes, apples, turnips, pumpkins, and the hogs allowed to run on green pasture part of the time, on clover or blue grass, they will fatten all the better. Usually, in fattening my hogs, I let them run out part of the time on grass, and feed them off almost all the products of the farm, and at the same time let them have all the mast they can get, as acorns, beech nuts, hickory nuts, walnuts, etc. Give them plenty of slop and salt them well. Under this treatment I have always had good hogs, except last year. The cholera swept off thirty-five of my smaller hogs and severely affected some of my larger ones; so that they did not fatten well. There is another point believed by some to be important in the hog line, viz: the time of killing hogs. My rule is to kill hogs in the new moon. This I cannot explain the advantage of, other than that it seems to be a law of nature that meat will go further when killed in the new moon. We cannot account for the difference, only that ample experience, it is believed by some, has proved its truth. We cannot say why it is that the bread we eat nourishes and sustains our bodies, yet it is so. Hogs do not generally fatten as well this fall as usual, owing to the light frost bitten corn. It seems to take about twice the usual quantity to keep them along, and they do not generally fatten fast at that. There is, perhaps, not more than half the usual quantity of pork in this section this year, owing to the loss of hogs by cholera last fall, and many have been sold and shipped off on account of the scarcity of corn.

T. C.

King's Creek, Champaign Co., Ohio, Nov. 27, '63.

[Written for the Dollar Newspaper—Philada.]

HINTS FOR THE FARMER.

As the winter has now set in—a season to most farmers of comparative inactivity—it may not be amiss at the present time to call the attention of our brother farmers to a few items of labor, which, if seen to now while we have leisure, will save time at some future period, and perhaps money also.

Every farmer should procure, as soon as possible, if not the whole, part of a set of carpenter tools, such as a set of planes, a draw-shave, a few bits and augurs, one or more handsaws and chisels of different sizes, and then, if he has any ingenuity whatever, he can make all needful repairs on his buildings, farming tools, etc., and so save the expense of hiring it done. When the fall work is done, the first thing the farmer should attend to is to see that his year's supply of wood is renewed; and next, through the leisure hours of winter, he should overhaul his farming tools, and see that they are in a suitable condition for use. It would also be a good idea to make a few extra plough handles, teeth for the horse-rake, fork and rake stales; in fact, to prepare for every contingency which may arise in consequence of the breaking of any of his implements of labor. It is also a good time to repaint wagons and sleighs, and to apply the same material to all other implements which are in any way exposed to the weather. Rails for fencing should be got out, and they or whatever else is intended for that purpose should be drawn to the place where they are to be used. Thus we have presented a brief summary of what it would be well for every farmer to attend to. How often, in the spring—in that hurrying time with the farmer—do we hear some agricultural friend say, "I should have finished harrowing such a field (sowed to wheat, oats, or whatever it may be,) if I had not broke this or that article," which, if such a result had been provided for, might have been replaced with but little loss of time. But, "a word to the wise is sufficient," and so we will leave the subject for the consideration of those whom it most concerns.

SYLVESTER.

[Written for the Dollar Newspaper—Philada.]

YAMS.

The yam is a species of sweet potato, and is extensively grown in the South. It grows much larger than the common sweet potato, which is here called the Spanish potato, and is much sweeter. They often grow to weigh five pounds and sometimes more. They do not become sweet until they are fully matured, and usually not until they are dug. They then become very sweet; so much so that when baked small drops of molasses will be scattered over the surface. They are delicious, and are regarded as very healthy and nutritious food. The manner of growing is as follows:—Early in the spring a bed is prepared, and the yams are spread thickly over it, but carefully laid so that they will not touch each other, and covered about three inches deep. When they have grown till the vine is three or four inches long, and after a rain, the ground is prepared by throwing it up into ridges! The slips are then carefully drawn from the yam, and set in the ridges about ten inches apart, where they will take root and grow. In about two weeks another crop of vines will have grown in the bed, which can again be drawn, and this can be repeated four or five times. In the mean time, the vines first set will have grown two or three feet, which can be cut off and set out, and will do as well as the slips drawn from the bed, and some think better. They are cultivated with the plow and hoe. When the vines are fully grown, on a rich sandy soil, they cover the ground like a mat. They vary much in the yield, which is owing, in a great measure, to the seasons. Two hundred bushels to the acre is a fair yield.

A. H.

SALTING HAY.

A correspondent of the Country Gentleman having stated that he abandoned salting hay because he thought it added to rather than diminished its moisture, a writer in the Boston Cultivator "backed up" the opinion in still stronger terms, asserting that "the practice of salting hay ought to be almost as much discountenanced and discouraged, as though it were an actual poison." To this the editor of the Massachusetts Plowman replies, and we give the substance of his answer below, divested of some not very relevant remarks:

"Salting hay is to be abandoned then, according to these correspondents, because it adds to the moisture instead of lessening it.' We should like to inquire when, how, and how much the usual quantity of salt applied to hay in the mow, adds to its moisture. Figures of rhetoric are one thing, and figures of arithmetic quite another. In dealing with the practical affairs of every day life, we prefer to use the latter. Farmers generally do not pickle their hay in brine, as they do beef and pork—but apply to such as has not been thoroughly cured, from a peck to a half bushel of dry salt to the ton. Let us take the latter and largest quantity for our illustration, and estimate its weight at forty pounds. This will give us only a single pound of salt to every fifty pounds of hay, which is equivalent to the enormous quantity of about *six pennyweights* to the pound.' Now if the weight of salt had been pure water, it would not be possible to discover it in that small quantity, if carefully sprinkled in the same proportion; and therefore it is a simple absurdity, if nothing else, to talk about such an application of salt increasing the moisture in the hay. But perhaps it may be claimed that the salt absorbs moisture from the atmosphere, and thus injures the hay; but the folly of this proposition is as great as the first. Hay stowed in the mow does not come in contact with the atmosphere, and every one knows that when sheltered under a tight roof in a dry barn, the absorption of moisture by even clear salt from the atmosphere, is hardly perceptible.

"What then becomes of their new theory? It will perhaps be the means of deceiving some farmers into an increase of their quantity of musty hay and mouldy fodder—but we trust that while experience has demonstrated so often and so well, that the chemical affinity of the elements of common salt with the gases generated by damp hay, always exerts a beneficial effect in checking, and in preventing that fermentation by which it would otherwise be ruined, preserves it clean and sweet as it went from the field, not only without injury, but with decided benefit to the animals which are to eat it, farmers will be slow to abandon a practice which is always fruitful in good results.

LAYING DOWN GRAPEVINES IN WINTER.

A correspondent of one of our Agricultural exchange papers says: "In my rambles in various portions of this and adjoining counties, I have been very particular in making observations with reference to the productiveness of those vines that have been laid down when compared with those that have *not* been laid down during winter, and I have found it an invariable rule that those vines, no matter what was the variety of grape, which had been detached from their supports in late autumn, and laid down and covered with a few inches depth of soil, or with leaves, until the cold weather had passed in the spring, yielded good crops of grapes, while those that had not been laid down during winter yielded but little fruit, and in many instances, none at all; and when such vines did bear, the grapes were almost always several days later in maturing, and were also of an inferior quality.

"I could mention reliable instances in the same vineyards, where the vines had been laid down and protected, were loaded with fruit, while those that were left on the treilises during the winter, produced comparatively nothing. People of our county are learning that their vines must be protected from the intense cold of our long winters. Therefore, most of them cut their vines loose from the frames early in November, and lay them on the ground and cover them with leaves or with a few inches in depth of light earth, and they find that the little expense and trouble of performing this job, returns an ample compensation in fruit the next season. I have in my mind a number of choice vines in this city, that had been trained and cultivated with great care and expense, some of which were killed right out by the severe cold of winter, while some others were so seriously injured that they produced no ripe fruit at all. Whereas, had they been laid down during the cold weather, no doubt they would have produced a bountiful crop of delicious grapes.

Let every one who owns a grapevine cut it loose from its supports, and cover it with light earth, leaves, or with thin pieces of turf, until the warm weather of next spring admonishes us that it is time to uncover it again, and hang it on the frame. This practice has secured large quantities of delicious grapes, when, had it not been done, there would have been no fruit a all on the vines. The practice is beneficial to the most hardy varieties of grapes, and without it, little or no fruit may be expected when the variety is of a tender sort.

"MANURING GRAPEVINES.—Many men contend that grapes need no manure, and that manure is decidedly injurious, as it produces such a luxuriant growth as to cause mildew before the fruit has ripened. This may be correct in theory, but we have not met with any instances in this county where mildew could be traced with any degree of certainty to the influences of the manure that was applied to the vines. I have remarked in many instances, that those men who raise the largest, fairest, and earliest grapes, are those who manure their vines most abundantly. But those who apply the most bountiful dressing of manure, are always careful to have it well spaded in the soil as early in the spring as it can be done after the cold weather is past; and after this, during the entire season, the soil is kept mellow by frequently stirring it with hoes.

"The manure is usually applied in late autumn, when the vines are laid down. After they have been cut loose from the frames, and pruned properly, they are placed together as closely as practicable, and held down by one man while one covers them with a thin covering of good barn-yard manure, and then covers the manure with as little of the earth as will be sufficient to hold the vines down beneath the manure.

"By the best grape-growers our county is rapidly manuring, I am convinced is far superior to simply mulching them. The argument in favor of this practice is, and it is doubtless correct, the sun warms and enlivens the soil about the vines, and keeps the roots in a more healthy condition than they would be when the surface is covered with a stratum of mulching."

[Written for the Dollar Newspaper—Philada.]

INQUIRIES.

SMALL FARM.—Suppose a man has only 35 or 40 acres of good or first-rate cleared land, into how many fields should he divide it, and what crops should he grow on it, and in what rotation or regular succession on *each field* to make his little farm as nice and as productive as it well can be? Come now, you tasty and well-experienced small farm owners, who have studied and worked at this thing for years, let us have the benefit of your observation and experience. And while you are about it, have the goodness also to tell us the size, shape and various conveniences of your tasty and well-studied farm houses, barns and other out-buildings so that those, who desire it, may profit by your experience. The writer of these inquiries has, for a good many years past, enlightened your minds on many various agricultural subjects, and now that he wants a little information from you on the points above specified, he hopes to hear from you for his own good, and that of others, through the Agricultural Department of the "Newspaper." It will take but a little of your time to give us clear and exact answers to these inquiries, and you may do much good in this way—more than you are aware of.

November, 1863. J. F. W.

FENCING OF SMALL FARMS.—Is it advisable to surround a small farm here in Pennsylvania with a *living* fence and divide it into fields with live fencing? And if so, how should it be done to be the most convenient or advantageous? and what kind of living, growing bush, plant or vine is the cheapest and best to make such live fences of? and what will be the probable cost of the same on a nice, level and loamy soil that can very easily be plowed or spaded up for these purposes? Any information on this subject will be thankfully received by

Nov., 1863. A FRIEND OF AGRICULTURE.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES IN PENNSYLVANIA.—What disposition did our last Legislature make of the landed fund that Congress, a few sessions ago, appropriated or made over to Pennsylvania for the benefit of agricultural colleges or instruction within the bounds of our State? Will some one please tell us how this matter stands, so that we may know what progress we are making in this direction?

November, 1863. A PROGRESSIVE.

Can any of the readers of the "Dollar Newspaper" inform me if velvet can be cleaned without washing?

Will lime thrown broadcast over land destroy running briers?

Will rye sown in the spring come to perfection?

[Written for the Dollar Newspaper—Philada.]

CURRANT BUSHES.

Any one can raise a currant bush, but the thing is to raise a fine bush. Take young sprouts, last year's growth, and remove the eyes from the lower portion of the shoot for about nine inches, which will prevent suckers being thrown up from the roots. Plant in the spring or fall, in rich ground, as the roots of the currant do not extend themselves far in search of food. They should be yearly supplied with rotten manure, dug in about the the roots. The bush should not be allowed to form a thick head, but be kept open. The last year's wood should be cut back two or three inches every spring. The culture of this fruit is often neglected in the best gardens. Plant eight feet apart; treat well, and for fifteen years your table may be supplied with this cheap luxury, costing you little or nothing. Every one that owns a few feet of land, as well as the farmer who owns his hundred acres, should plant out currant bushes. If you but think so, it takes but a few minutes, and with a little care taken of them, you will soon be amply repaid for your trouble. Put not off until to-morrow that which should be done to-day. I have known farmers to say, when urged to make some improvement, "I haven't time this spring to set out those bushes; my work is too hurrying; I will have leisure in the fall, then I will attend to it." This is the way it goes, putting off the work that should be attended to immediately until some future time. I say to one and all, improve the present.

O. S. T.

SCALLOPED OYSTERS.

Wash out of the liquor two quarts of oysters, pound very fine eight soft crackers, or grate a stale loaf of bread; butter a deep dish, sprinkle in a layer of crumbs, then a layer of oysters, a little mace, pepper, and bits of butter; another layer of crumbs, another of oysters, then seasoning as before; and so on until the dish is filled; cover the dish over with bread crums, seasoning as before; turn over it a cup of the oyster liquor. Set it in the oven for thirty or forty minutes to brown. This is an excellent way to prepare oysters for a family dinner.

CHRISTMAS CHIMES.

BY R. F. FULLER.

Faces careful, long and glooming,
Let a smile to-day illuming,
Put the cold, hard look away!
Do not always be so sober;
Making all the year October!
Have, at least, one holiday!

Sweeter than the Spring birds singing,
Hear the children's voices ringing
Merry, merry Christmas chimes!
Manhood! for to-day, 'twere better,
Loosing gladness, care to fetter—
Gay, as in the olden times!

Ne'er with dates your reckoning bother!
If not this day, on some other,
Dawned salvation on the earth!
Christmas hearts can, in December,
Celebrate, and so remember
Jubilee of Jesus' birth!

If thou ever wast light-hearted,
Mirth, as in the years departed,
Make, to-day, a guest of thine!
Hast thou e'er a friend? Go, find him!
Grasp his hand now, and remind him
Of the days of auld lang syne!

On this day, or on some other,
What a joy had Jesus' mother!
Parent! have a heart like hers—
Love, in your home circle, showing,
Still with faithful ardor glowing,
Oft as Christmas day occurs!

Now, let giff gaff warm affection,
Quicken loving recollection!
Think its purchase not a waste!
Love and friendship are life's treasure,
Pure, delicious cup of pleasure,
Lawful for the lips to taste!

On this day, or on some other,
Jesus came, our Elder Brother,
All men brothers here to make!
His and ours are thus, remember,
All the poor, this cold December!
Brothers, help, for Jesus' sake!

ORIGINAL STORY.

THE LADY OPPOSITE.

[WRITTEN FOR THE DOLLAR NEWSPAPER—PHILA.]

BY MRS. CHARLES SPENCER.

"They've come, Uncle Charley, they've come!"

"And who has come, little one?" asked he, passing his hand over the golden curls.

"Why, the Lollards, that we've been expecting so long, you know. Now just look out of the window, for here they all are."

So he went, and not reluctantly. The Lollards lived in the grand house opposite, whose grounds occupied the whole square, but they had been abroad since we came on the street. So they were quite myths to us, and we must all have plead guilty to a large amount of curiosity concerning those who were about to become realities to us. I went to the window too; but we were too late except to catch a glimpse of a gentleman closing the front door, and the splendid bays and family carriage, which was just turning off round the corner.

"Served us right; what business have we to be watching our neighbors?" said Charles, but still lingering at the window, evidently taken captive by a stray thought, and for a moment led away from the outward world.

"Mother," asked little Margaret, the sunny-haired herald of the Lollards, "didn't you tell me, the other day, that actions speak louder than words?"

"Yes, pet"

"Well, then, it seems to me, Uncle Charley, it isn't any use to talk while you stand waiting to see if they don't draw up the front curtains over there."

"Madam, wait till I catch you," and, with a terrible frown of indignation, he started off for a romp with the child. He did not come in to see us, my mother and I, again till evening, when my father came too. Charles was one of those who were born favorites, who seem to have all nobleness and grace, and beauty too. Not a red and white and black handsome man, whose attraction lies on the very outside, and so is attractive to only a few, but a man in whose physical face you could see a spiritual one which spoke goodness and truth; a goodness which was not above the common courtesies and gaieties of life a truth not confined to doctrine, but which entered into the daily walk. Two years older than I, he was to me the impersonation of manly beauty, strength and wisdom. He had clear, dark eyes, so full of love and tenderness—a mouth so firm and handsome, the perfect shape of a bow—wavy hair, turned off from a broad, pure forehead. He and my father came in together. After the kiss which he had not grown to think childish in his manhood, he held up a letter.

"What will you give?" said he.

"All the news it contains."

"Agreed," and so he handed it to me. The postmark was Dedham, and I sat looking at the seven letters, wondering who there was in Dedham to write to me. I gave it up, and opened the letter to see. It was from my bluestocking sister Vic, being examined at Dedham, had written there. He, with his sister, was coming to New York, and while there wished to make me a visit. Could I receive them? I read it aloud.

"Certainly," said father and mother. So it was settled that they should come. I wrote to them accordingly, and in a week they were with us. How bright our little, plain dining-room looked the morning after their arrival. Charles and little Margaret, the sunshine—father and mother and Amy Marston the calm azure—while Paul was a cloud but tinted with the brightness around him. Amy had a sweet, pale face; brown eyes and brown hair, smoothly put back. Paul's face was very striking; his eyes were like Amy's, but the contemptuous expression of his mouth scarcely ever changed. George (my husband) had told me that his story was the old one—he had loved, but he was poor then, and her father was wealthy and proud, and one day there came a cruel note requesting to be freed from the annoyance attendant on his presence. Then he gave her up and became almost a woman-hater. But this morning the sunsh ne around him and the fire which, smothered as it was, still burned in his heart, seemed to have cracked the strata so long forming above it, and his own genial nature became visible. Little Margaret sat next him. They were talking and laughing about the wish-bone he had found.

"Do you know, Paul and Amy," said I, "that you have entirely distracted our attention from our principal objects of curiosity?"

"And what are those?"

"Why, the Lollards, our opposite neighbors, who returned from abroad a week ago, and whom we have never seen, although we made an effort to do so the day that they came."

"I suppose," said Paul, "that you invest the people with the same importance that their position and wealth has, and with the same beauty that their outward surroundings have."

"Well, it must be confessed that I do, though I see by your looks that you think it very foolish and altogether womanish. Still I do not incline to give it up. To us, at present, they are myths; their home is beautiful as a temple; why not make them gods and goddesses?"

"Well, for some reason or other, temples now-a-days do not warrant deities, whether temples of stone, beautiful with the architecture of man, or temples of flesh, beautiful with the architecture of God."

The rose-tint was fading from the cloud. Just then some one sang, in a clear, rich voice, "*Ah, per che non posse*," &c., evidently some one across the way.

"There," said I, triumphantly, "is not that a goddess?"

"One who lives in a temple, doubtless," replied he, bitterly.

I felt where his thoughts were tending, and looked to Charles for relief.

"Paul," said he, "I see that you have forgotten what a hero-worshipper Sis is. I warn you fairly that you have an almost hopeless task if you undertake to be iconoclast-in-chief to her."

"There is no need," said he, in the same tone as before. "Time never fails in that office."

The rose-tint was all gone, Charles saw, too.

"But, Sis," said he, "I did not tell you that I saw Mr. Lollard in the office, to-day. He had some business with Mr. Chamberlain. After it was finished, we were introduced to each other as neighbors. He seems a real gentleman, and I should judge by no means mistakes his wealth for himself. By the way, Paul, I must tell you about his case. Most curious thing."

And so the two lawyers settled down to a discussion of the case, and we left them. Little Margaret and I went to our room. I busied myself in arranging it, while she ran to her favorite seat in the window.

"Oh, mother, do come here," she exclaimed; "this must be Miss Lollard."

I went, and as I looked I felt a little exultant, for surely in so fair a temple none but a goddess could dwell. She came from the summer-house at the end of the garden, and the leaves of the trees having nearly all fallen, I saw finely. Let me give you the picture—a lady, tall and slender, brilliantly fair, with a wealth of golden hair twisted into a simple knot at the back of her head; dressed in a scarlet *robe de chambre*, shaded to black at the edges. She had in her hand some of the bright autumn leaves, which she seemed to be weaving; though her hands were busy, she came with that free, splendid motion which I have seen in but one other, the great French actress. Soon the coronet was completed, and placing it lightly on her head, she swept up the walk and into the house.

"Mother, I am going to tell Uncle Paul and Uncle Charley," and off she sped, my little treasure.

She soon returned to say that they were gone, but grandma had seen the beautiful lady. When we came together again we spoke of her, and watched the house across the way with additional interest; but we saw no more, except at evening, shadows on the ceiling, the upper shutters being open. For several day we were so busily engaged sight-seeing, (it was Amy's first visit to New York,) and returned at night so thoroughly tired that we had no time, had there been the opportunity, to see the Lollards. For some time a certain day had been set aside for a visit to the Dusseldorf gallery. It came, a clear and beautiful October day. We were ready at an exceedingly unfashionable hour, crossed to New York, took a stage, and soon found ourselves at the door. The gallery was then at its old rooms. We went in, and though the rooms seemed clear, as we deposited parasols and canes I noticed a parasol at the desk.

Paul wanted to show Amy "The Weavers," at the other end of the room; but I, who always want to take things in order, secured Charles and began. We had stopped before a picture just at the entrance to the smaller room, when I discovered a lady and gentleman within. I was about to say to Charles that we were not the only visiters, when the gentleman stepped forward and greeted him very cordially. In a moment Charles introduced him, "Mr. Lollard, Mrs. Marston, my sister."

"Mrs. Marston, I am very happy to meet you. It is a fact of city life, which I am very slow to recognize, that we are not to consider those who live near us as neighbors. I mean the good old sense of the word. My dear," said he, turning to the lady, who had dropped her veil over her face, and which was too heavily wrought for me to be able to distinguish her features, but who seemed to regard me with more than ordinary interest.

"Excuse me," she replied, "I am not well," and she had already sunk into a seat. Mr. Lollard hastened to her side. In a few moments she seemed to recover, and they passed out. By her walk, I recognized her as Miss Lollard. We had moved away from them, to Paul and Amy, being too little acquainted with them to offer assistance, and not wishing to annoy them by observation. At a slight exclamation from Paul, all turned to look at them as they passed out.

"Who are they?" he asked, eagerly, of Charles.

"Mr. Lollard and his daughter, who live in the temple across the way from our house, and are deities, you know, according to Sis."

"Well," said he, carelessly, quite at variance with his former manner, "I should say Rachel had come over. I was her nightly devotee when in Paris, and I never saw anything so like her walk as the movement of that lady. Now, ladies and gentlemen, would you like to see my favorite picture? Then come with me. We'll play 'Follow my leader' now."

We all followed, and he stopped before Germania.

"Isn't she splendid? Now, after you have bestowed due admiration on this, I want you all to declare your favorites. They are so familiar to you all, except Amy, that you do not need to hesitate."

"Oh," said Amy, "I do not need to hesitate. 'The Fairies' is mine."

Dear mother chose, as we knew she would, "The Adoration of the Magi," while Charles and I agreed with Paul. He himself talked so rapidly and so gally, so altogether unlike himself, that it made me wonder very much, but I could not explain it. The mood passed off as we went home. That evening we were going to the opera. Early in the evening, the door-bell rang. We were all dressing except Paul, who was waiting in the parlor. The servant brought a bundle in to him, and said the man was waiting. Paul took up the bundle and saw that it was directed simply, "— State street, Brooklyn," but supposing it to be a bundle he was expecting from home, and that the want of further direction was one of those oversights with which every one meets more or less, paid the charge and signed his name. He cut the string quickly, expecting in the bundle some papers of importance. Judge of his surprise when he found, under multitudinous wrappers, an elegant bouquet-holder, with a card attached, "A token of friendship and congratulation from Isabel Tracy." Then we came in almost simultaneously—we all read the card and declared it was for none of us, and then fell to wondering who Isabel Tracy was.

Little Margaret, ever busy, turned over the wrappers and separated them. After having taken off the outer one, she brought the next one to me.

"Here, mother," said she, "what is that?"

I looked at it and read, "Miss Azalia Glome, care of Mr. Lollard, — State street, Brooklyn."

"Let me see," said Paul, snatching the paper from my hand. "I suppose they have given the wrong direction," and did up the bundle, slipped a card under the string, "Opened by mistake—Paul Marston," and left the room to send it over.

"Poor Paul," said Amy, and as we looked at her inquiringly, added, "Surely you have heard Paul's story?"

"Yes," said I; "but why poor Paul just now?"

"Azalia Glome is the heroine," answered she, and I echoed, "Poor Paul." But he came in looking so cold and proud that I forgot that the spirit might mourn while the external would glitter and sparkle in the sunlight. Paul was never so brilliant, (it was the brilliancy of an iceberg,) and I almost regretted having pitied him, and wondered how one winter could have so frozen his waters in the life spring—love. But he told us afterward how they surged and boiled.

In the afternoon of the next day the servant brought up two cards, and said that the ladies were inquired for. Amy was sitting with me, and mother had gone out. I took the cards and read, "M. Lollard—Miss Glome." I handed them to Amy without a word, for the servant was still waiting.

"I cannot see her," said she, "do not ask me."

I dismissed the servant and went down. Mr. Lollard met me very cordially, and introduced "My ward, Miss Glome." I turned towards her and saw my goddess of the garden, and I did not doubt, the lady whom we saw in the Dusseldorf gallery. It was not in this case "distance" that "lent enchantment to the view," for I certainly never have seen a more beautiful woman than she was. Dressed entirely in green velvet, relieved only by ermine and the bright inner trimmings of her bonnet, she seemed more like the creature of a story than one who really lived. Her hair was laid back plain within her bonnet, but its luxuriance was not concealed; her complexion was dazzling, just tinted on either cheek, but her eyes were her glory—they were very dark, almost black. I hardly wondered, when I saw her, that one winter, a sense of her unworthiness, should have made Paul an iceberg. Mr. Lollard said that, fearing that we had learned the New York custom of not knowing our neighbors, they wished to forestall any indifference that we might conclude to show, by making the first advances themselves. He also presented the regrets of Mrs. Lollard that her health would not permit her to come also. I felt how kind they were, and how courteous in him to speak of a favor to us as a privilege to them, and expressed my self indebted to them.

"As we have already become so neighborly as to make out a list of mutual obligations, Mrs. Marston," said Miss Glome, "I must add mine also. I believe that I am indebted to your husband for the safe arrival of a gift which had miscarried."

"My husband, Miss Glome—did you know him?"

The bright blood mounted to her hair, but she answered quietly: "I knew him years ago, but I refer not to the favor of last night."

"I understand you now," I rejoined, and I felt the interest awakened by the mention of my husband subside into indifference and rise again as I thought of Paul; "my husband is dead, it is my brother-in-law of whom you speak."

"And you are not Mrs. Paul Marston?" she asked with the even smile too well-bred to display curiosity, but the wonderful eyes poured forth new floods of light and betrayed her eagerness.

I replied no, and related the circumstances concerning the package. As I finished the door opened and Paul came in. He was evidently not aware that the room was occupied, but he was always too much at ease to render a retreat necessary. He spoke to Miss Glome, and I introduced him to Mr. Lollard.

"I was so fortunate, Miss Glome, as to be able to send a gift intended for you in the right direction, last night," said he, with freezing politeness. It was his turn to make the winter now.

"Yes, Sir," she replied, "I was just expressing my indebtedness to Mrs. Marston." Though the voice was firm, I could see her trembling in every limb. The waters were moved, and they would yield the sooner to the icy influence of his contempt. It was her I pitied now, and tried within myself to solve the mystery, but I could not.

"I should judge, Miss Glome," continued Paul, in the same manner, "from the card accompanying your beautiful present, that the boy-god has at last taken you captive. Allow me to congratulate you."

"It is unnecessary, Mr. Marston," and her manner grew like his. Turning to me, she said: "My friend, Mi